Missouri Rent Control Laws: Caps, Exemptions and Local Rules

Summary for landlords and property managers. Last reviewed October 29, 2026. Full guide: https://www.generationadvisory.com/laws/missouri-rent-control-laws

Missouri bars cities and counties from regulating rent amounts on private property. A 2025 law widened that preemption to cover local rules on screening, source of income, deposits and rights of first refusal.

Key points

- No county or city may enact or enforce an ordinance that regulates the amount of rent charged for private residential or commercial rental property.

Missouri at a glance

Rule	Missouri	Law
Rent control status	No county or city may enact or enforce an ordinance that regulates the amount of rent charged for private residential or commercial rental property.	RSMo 441.043

Mistakes to avoid

- Assuming a unit is exempt without checking the exemption rules and any notice the exemption requires.
- Following state rules and missing a stricter city ordinance.
- Raising rent in the middle of a fixed term when the lease does not allow it.
- Giving less notice than the increase requires.

Verify current law

Laws named in this summary:

- RSMo 441.043

Official sources:

- Revised Statutes of Missouri, chapter 441 (Missouri Revisor of Statutes): https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneChapter.aspx?chapter=441
- Revised Statutes of Missouri, chapter 535 (Missouri Revisor of Statutes): https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneChapter.aspx?chapter=535
- Revised Statutes of Missouri, chapter 534 (Missouri Revisor of Statutes): https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneChapter.aspx?chapter=534

- Missouri Courts: https://www.courts.mo.gov/

> General information, not legal advice. Check current law and talk to a Missouri attorney before you act. Last reviewed October 29, 2026.