**Two Challenges Expected Next Legislative Session (prepared by Otto Fajen)**

BUDGET CHALLENGES IN THE FUTURE

HCS/HB 2002, the K-12 education budget bill, contains a $98M increase to reach full K-12 formula funding. While full funding of the formula this year is a positive outcome, the state faces a doubtful revenue future. State tax cuts enacted by SB 509 in 2014 are now being implemented to reduce revenues. The legislature also passed legislation in 2018 to change and, in some cases, reduce state taxes further. Also, the actual impact of the sweeping federal tax law changes in 2017 on state revenues are not yet known. In coming years, the legislature is likely to struggle even to maintain formula funding and unlikely to be able to improve funding for other key programs, such as pupil transportation, which the state is only funding at about 15%.

CHARTER SCHOOL EXPANSION BILL DEFEATED, BUT WILL RETURN

House majority party leaders worked to urge caucus members to support HB 2247 (Roeber), but the bill lacked enough support to pass and was not taken up by the House. The bill would have allowed charter schools to be sponsored by outside entities (other than the local school board) and operate in many districts around the state.

Guided by the revised MNEA Position Paper on charter schools, the Association opposed the bill. Missouri NEA believes that charter schools should be sponsored by and accountable to the local community through the elected school board and approved only after an impact study is conducted by the district to consider the proposal. School board sponsorship ensures that the board can plan the use of all school funds and implement the services and programs that meet the needs of all students in the community.

The Association also believes that all charter schools should be subject to the same standards of accountability, transparency and respect for the rights of students, parents and staff as are applicable to traditional public schools.