



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Oct. 23, 2018**

## **Governor Parson to Sign Legislation at the Greene County Historic Courthouse**

Missouri Governor Mike Parson will be in Springfield at 3:45 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 24 to sign into law House Bill 2. The signing will be held in Room 212 of the Greene County Historic Courthouse, 940 N. Boonville Ave.

HB 2, which was passed during a recent special legislative session called by the Governor, is legislation related to drug treatment courts. It will place all treatment courts under one regulatory umbrella as well as allow jurisdictions that do not have a treatment court to transfer a defendant to a jurisdiction that does. It also expands by two commissioners the state commission that oversees treatment courts. The original bill was filed by Representative Kevin Austin, R-Springfield.

“We are thrilled Governor Parson is choosing Greene County to sign this important legislation, because in this area we are seeing firsthand the real benefits of drug treatment court programs,” said Judge Peggy Davis, who is a member of the Greene County Drug Courts Coordinating Commission.

Judge Davis, who has been a part of drug treatment courts in the area for 18 years, points to the effectiveness of local drug treatment programs, specifically the four-track model used for risk-needs assessment that looks at how likely someone is to fail at probation. Locally this has helped reduce recidivism rates by 49 percent.

“We are making a real difference with these programs and this legislation is going to continue to help us build on those best practices and work together to achieve the best outcomes,” Davis said.

The first treatment court began in Greene County in 1998. Currently, there are approximately 1,400 participants in the various related programs due to charges stemming from mental health and substance use issues. These programs do not take serious violent offenders who cannot be managed safely in the community.

“Greene County is fortunate to have people who are dedicated to transforming lives, limiting incarceration and reducing the cost of prosecution. It is programs like our drug treatment court that is doing that every day with a great deal of success,” said Greene County Presiding Commissioner Bob Cirtin.

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*Greene County is the State of Missouri’s fourth most populous county, serving more than 275,000 people (2010 census). Its mission is to provide all citizens of Greene County, including those in its cities, a safe and thriving community through excellent customer service, unparalleled dedication, and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The Greene County Commission is the executive body of Greene County operating under guidelines established in the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri. Within that authority the Commission enacts ordinances, resolutions and policies, supervises the activities of county departments, fixes salaries, adopts the annual budget, provides for construction and other services, and conducts hearings on planning and zoning matters.*

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