

# Missouri Senate Review

District 1

Fall 2003

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***...and More!***



Dear Friend,

The legislature meets in biennial – two year – sessions, and in May we completed the first session of the 92nd General Assembly. This has been a year of famous and infamous firsts. With Republicans winning a majority in the House of Representatives, for the first time in more than 50 years the Republicans controlled the General Assembly.

Immediately upon the conclusion of session, the governor called the legislature back into session because he wanted to raise taxes, which he had been unable to do during the regular session. We rejected that effort because Missouri has serious systemic problems that cannot be cured with a Band-Aid. The taxes he wanted would have masked our problems for a short time, but we would have been in far worse shape after more jobs left the state and a black market was created for cigarettes to avoid the high taxes.

Missouri has lost 100,000 jobs in the last four years and those jobs largely went to other states – only 20 percent of jobs lost went to foreign countries. We need a friendlier business climate in our state.

Litigation costs are out of control. Doctors are quitting medicine in massive numbers because medical malpractice premiums have doubled, tripled and even quadrupled in some cases. In many cases doctors can't even get this insurance – at any price. I have lost both of my doctors, and I am sure you have had similar experiences. Recently, American Family Insurance, a company that insures 10 percent of the doctors in the state, announced that they were no longer writing malpractice insurance in Missouri. This was the latest insurer to leave Missouri, following in the footsteps of several other major insurers last year. The governor would have you believe that this has happened because the greedy insurance companies are trying to make themselves whole because of the bad stock market. More accurately, the insurance companies have been absorbing the need to raise premiums because the stock market **was** booming. However, there are two factors the governor never talks about. Those are the size of the awards in lawsuits that are being given by juries in some parts of the state **and** the Appeals Court decision, popularly known as the Scott decision, that erased the medical malpractice caps. If that was the only problem, the companies that left the state would probably have remained here.


No, those companies are gone for many additional reasons. We need business to create jobs but the regulatory and legal environment is terrible in Missouri. Worker's compensation philosophy has taken a wrong direction, and the costs have become outrageous. Unemployment insurance structure changes must be made especially in light of the level of unemployment in Missouri. We need more options to deal with the problems. The governor vetoed my bill, SB 69, which was a small business regulatory bill that forced the state agencies to communicate with small businesses before writing rules and regulations. Early in the session, the Senate passed it with only two votes against and the House unanimously passed the exact same bill. The state agencies noticed that it affected them late in the session, and suddenly I had the governor's people all over me. We changed the bill to accommodate most of their objections, and both bodies passed it overwhelmingly. Nevertheless, Gov. Holden still vetoed it. He has issued an executive order with all of the protections for small businesses removed so it will continue to be business as usual in Missouri. The Post-Dispatch even headlined that the governor voted with special interest groups, labor and trial attorneys, by his vetoes, and I would add the bureaucrats because of what I experienced.

Missouri's problems are more severe than other states in the nation. Nearly 20 percent of our citizens are on Medicaid – not a healthy number in the market-basket of indicators for a healthy economy. Our courts have been filled with political appointments without regard to competency.

The governor rejected bills, many of which would have helped to correct the problems. He vetoed 30 bills in total, not quite a record because Gov. Arthur Mastick Hyde in 1923 vetoed 37 bills sent to him by the legislature. The bills we sent to Gov. Holden were reasonable answers to our problems. He had an opportunity to become one of our state's best governors, if he had just rolled up his sleeves and worked with us.

We left the City constituents and material related to them out of our directory. The only excuse I have is that the redistricting maps have only recently been available to us. Some information is still not available. I apologize for that profusely. We have tried to include an addendum in the newsletter for you to keep with the directory.

Due to term limits, I will be leaving office at the end of 2004. Therefore, this upcoming session will be my last. It has truly been an honor to serve the people of the 1<sup>st</sup> Senatorial District and I will miss you.



Anita Yeckel



## Governor Vetoes Bill Meant to Help Small Business

Unwilling to work with the General Assembly, Gov. Bob Holden appears to be trying to legislate with his veto pen and through executive order.

Among the bills that Gov. Holden killed with his veto pen was Senate Bill 69, legislation that I sponsored and feel strongly about. The sole purpose of this bill was to create a Small Business Regulatory Fairness Board that would provide small business owners with more influence on the creation of new regulations. What could be wrong with that?

Small businesses are the backbone of Missouri's economy and their continued growth is essential to jump-starting our state's sagging economy.

While putting together this bill, I talked to countless small business owners who related that they simply feel overwhelmed by the impact of state regulations on their business operations. The Small Business Regulatory Fairness Board would have an impact on small businesses by offering them structural input to regulatory writing.

The board would conduct hearings and solicit input from small businesses regarding enforcement by regulatory state agencies.

I believe the governor's veto had nothing to do with the bill itself, and everything to do with politics.

In August, the governor signed an executive order setting up a Small Business Regulatory Fairness Board.



*Rep. Brian Baker, R-Belton, at my left, and I were joined at a press conference by Senate and House leadership, representatives from the Small Business Administration and others interested in the passage of Senate Bill 69, which would have set up a Small Business Regulatory Fairness Board.*

The governor's executive order is a pale version of the reform measure that the General Assembly passed. It has no real teeth, and will be of little assistance to small business owners. It's just another example of the governor trying to legislate through executive order.

## Legislation Will Garner \$30 Million for Missouri

As part of a continued effort to modernize our state's banking system, the General Assembly passed legislation that will make numerous changes to laws dealing with Missouri's financial institutions, and garners an additional \$30 million for the state.

I served as Senate sponsor for House Bill 221, and while many of these changes seem quite simple, they will make a big difference to the manner in which financial institutions do business.

Changes are made to the statute of limitations regarding the demutualization of insurance companies. When mutual insurance companies convert over to a stock company, they have a certain length of time to pay of their mutual holders.

Under this new law, unclaimed property payable in the course of demutualization, rehabilitation or related reorganization is considered abandoned after three years and will then become state property. It is estimated that this change will result in an additional \$30 million for the State of Missouri.

Included in this bill is a provision that allows the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA) to originate PLUS Loans (Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students) and increases the term of the bonds the loan authority may sell from 30 years to 40 years.

The PLUS Loan is a low variable interest rate loan made available to the parents of a dependent undergraduate student. This loan is intended to cover the remaining cost of attendance at a college or university.

With more than \$3.3 billion in assets, and purchase activity in excess of \$700 million per year, MOHELA is one of the top 12 holders and servicers of student loans in the United States. Over 500,000 students have received a MOHELA financed student loan.

The changes we are making in this loan will enable more parents to send their children to college. With the rising cost of education, it's important to assist parents in any way possible.

## Lawmakers Continue Election Reform Effort

I had the opportunity to again work along side Secretary of State Matt Blunt on election reform legislation. I served as Senate sponsor of House Bill 511 which will put Missouri in compliance with the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA), and puts the state in line for its share of 1.5 billion in federal election reform grants authorized by Congress.

With these revisions, Missouri could receive up to \$76 million over four years in federal matching grants. The changes made under this legislation will go a long way toward modernizing our state's outdated election system.

During the 2002 legislative session, I served as sponsor of reform legislation that made a variety of changes to Missouri's election laws including requiring photo identification when casting a vote, allowing voters to cast provisional ballots when registration is in doubt and will enacting early voting in presidential elections.

HB 511 clarifies that the secretary of state, as Missouri's chief election official, is responsible for overseeing state compliance with HAVA. Election authorities will be required to establish training courses for election judges to incorporate the curriculum developed by the secretary of state.



*I joined Secretary of State Matt Blunt at a press conference to discuss legislation I sponsored which puts Missouri in compliance with the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA). Passage of this measure put the state in line for its share of \$1.5 million in federal election reform grants authorized by Congress.*

## New Law Aimed at Halting the Spread of Meth

Methamphetamine represents the fastest growing drug threat in Missouri. One of the most insidious aspects of this drug is that it is manufactured with chemicals found in over-the-counter cold medicines.

Ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, which are found in most cold and allergy medicines such as Sudafed, are the base ingredient for the manufacture of methamphetamine. Unfortunately, meth manufacturers buy these drugs over-the-counter and use them to cook this insidious drug.

I was able to amend language from legislation I sponsored, Senate Bill 433, onto Senate Bill 39 that will require all packages of any drug containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or like ingredients to be kept behind the counters or within six feet of the register in any retail establishment. Alternatively, retailers could use an anti-theft system that specifically prevents the theft of such drugs.

In addition, this legislation limits the sale of medicines containing these drugs to two packages.

Nothing about controlling the spread of meth is simple. Tighter control of meth ingredients seems to be one of the most promising approaches.

In developing this legislation, I worked closely with Missouri's law enforcement community in an attempt to find solutions to problems that they face on the streets every day.



*Sen. Gary Nodler, R-Joplin, Sen. Dan Clemens, R-Marshfield, and Sen. Matt Bartle, R-Lee's Summit, discuss legislation I sponsored aimed at halting the manufacture of meth in the State of Missouri.*

## General Assembly Overrides Record Number of Vetoes

The General Assembly returned to Jefferson City in September for an historic Veto Session/Special Session, with lawmakers overriding an unprecedented three gubernatorial vetoes.

Gov. Holden now becomes the first governor in our state's history to have three vetoes overridden. Previously, lawmakers had only succeeded in overriding a total of seven vetoes.

In a 23-10 vote, the Legislature voted in favor of a concealed weapons bill, which will allow Missourians with a permit to carry a concealed weapon. The new law will take effect in 30 days.

To qualify for permits, applicants must be least 23-years-old, successfully complete a training course and pass a detailed criminal background check. Anyone with a felony conviction, violent misdemeanor conviction or who was subject to a protection order would not qualify. The measure also addresses the issue of applicants with a history of mental illness.

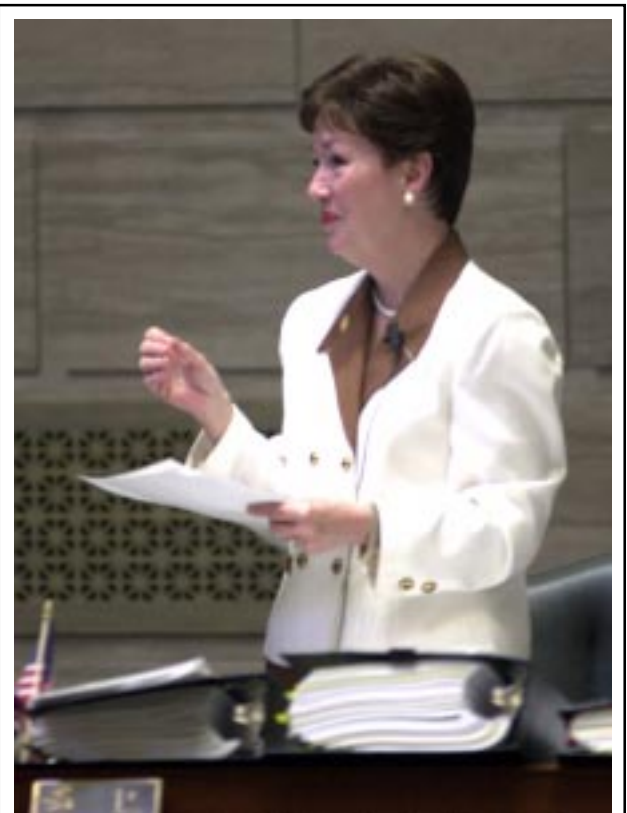
With a vote of 25-8 lawmakers struck down the governor's veto of a bill requiring a 24-hour waiting period for all abortions.

In a 23-10 vote, lawmakers overrode the governor's veto of a bill that would restrict the ability of governments to sue gun manufacturers.

This legislation would prohibit cities, counties and the state from suing gun manufacturers.

Despite these successes, we were unable to get enough votes to override the veto of a key economic development bill.

Legislation that would have reformed Missouri's tort laws received a 21-12 vote. I served as co-sponsor of this measure, which would have placed a cap on the "pain and suffering" award in injury lawsuits and made a variety of other changes aimed at reducing medical malpractice premiums.



*I joined the majority in the historic override of three of Gov. Holden's vetoes. I was deeply disappointed that we were unable to override the veto of tort reform legislation, which I believe was a key economic development issue.*

## Legislators Begin Reform of State Government

For years Missourians have had the perception that the government is totally out of touch with the needs of the people, and they haven't been entirely wrong. Since the end of World War II, state government has had a business as usual mentality. We're determined to change that.

When the Republicans assumed control of the General Assembly in January, lawmakers promised that major reforms would be made and it would no longer be business as usual.

The first step was passage this year of Senate Bill 299, which will require Missouri state government to adopt performance-based budgeting.

Under performance-based budgeting, a review of every department, division or agency of state government would occur at least once every five years.

Performance-based budgeting requires strategic planning concerning agency missions, goals and objectives and a process that requests quantifiable data that provides meaningful information about program outcomes that influence budget decisions.

A number of other states have already implemented this form of budgeting, and it has proved highly effective.

I served as co-sponsor for this legislation and I have been a long-time advocate of this form of budgeting.



## Winners and Losers for 2003

### Passed

**Nursing Homes** – Would stiffen penalties for sub-standard homes and reduce inspections for good ones. SB 556

**Bonds** – Would authorize \$400 million in revenue bonds to fill in this year's and next year's budgets. HB 401

**Guns** – Would allow sheriff to issue permits to eligible people to carry concealed weapons. HB 349  
(Vetoed by governor, Veto was Overridden)

**Sales Tax Holiday** – Would exempt sales of clothing, computers and school supplies from taxes during three days beginning August 2004. SB 11

**Taxes** – Would end some tax breaks, give delinquent taxpayers amnesty and improve tax collections to generate \$75 million to \$100 million. HB 600

**Teacher Retirement** – Would let Public School Retirement System charge teachers and school districts more to keep fund solvent. HB 346

**Prescription Drugs** – Would keep generic drugs in the state's SenioRx program by requiring lower rebates. SB 307

**Gun Lawsuits** – Would bar lawsuits by cities in Missouri against gunmakers. SB 13 (Vetoed by governor, Veto Overridden)

**MoDOT** – Would create an inspector general's post outside the department which would investigate complaints. HB 668

**Tort Reform** – Would restore caps on noneconomic damages, limit where lawsuits can be filed. SB 28 (Vetoed by governor)

**Foster Care** – Would open court proceedings, speed up hearings and penalize negligent foster care workers. HB 679 (Vetoed by governor)

**SPAM** – Would require unsolicited commercial e-mail to include "adv" in subject line. HB 228

**Unemployment** – would allow bonds to be issued to pay unemployment benefits and tighten eligibility requirements. SB 2 (Vetoed by governor)

**Boating Safety** – Would require people younger than 21 to pass a boat safety course beginning in 2005 before they could legally drive a boat on Missouri lakes. SB 1

### Failed

**Workers' Comp** – Would have required that work be the dominant factor of injury to be eligible for workers' compensation benefits. HB 321

**Abortion Lawsuits** – Would have allowed parents to sue someone who takes their daughter across state lines to get an abortion without parental consent. SB 34

**Education Funds** – Would have gradually put gaming revenue into the Classroom Trust Fund for distribution on per pupil basis. HB 288

**Crime** – Would have allowed police to detain a suspect for 30 hours without charging the person with a crime. Would have encouraged sentencing alternatives for nonviolent offenders. HB 198

**Property Taxes** – Would have limited growth in assessed valuation to 5 percent over two years for homeowners 65 and older. HB 517

**Telecommunications** – Would have deregulated high-speed Internet service. HB 142

**Campaign Finance** – Would have let Ethics Commission require electronic filing by legislative candidates by 2005. HB 412

**Environment** – Would have made it harder for the Department of Natural Resources to issue rules. HB 412

**High School Sports** – Would have set rules for high school sports and extracurricular activities. HB 631

**Presidential Primary** – Would have eliminated state's presidential primary. HB 387, SB 531



*Debate is so quick on the Senate floor that I frequently need to make myself notes to use when I debate an issue.*

## Senator Yeckel's Legislation

I sponsored the following Senate bills:

**Senate Bill 242** – This legislation was prompted by an Illinois case in which Philip Morris was ordered to post a \$12 billion appeal bond. The judge later reduced that to \$6 billion after officials from 33 states registered their alarm in friend-of-the-court brief. From now on, in Missouri appeal bonds in tobacco litigation will be capped at \$50 million.



**Senate Bill 243** – Creates the State Property Preservation Fund, with money being used for the purpose of repairing or replacing state-owned or leased property damaged from natural or man-made events.

Subject to appropriations, the fund will pay claims for property loss of state-owned or leased buildings. In order for the fund to make payment for property loss, the Office of Administration must issue a notice of coverage for the property and the state must be contractually obligated to provide insurance for such property.

The amount of money to be paid out of the fund will not exceed the cost of repairing or restoring the building or the defeasance of outstanding debt secured by the property. Payments from the fund will come only after other insurance policies have been exhausted.

**Senate Bill 292** – Limits the disclosure of credit card numbers on sales receipts provided to cardholder.

**Senate Bill 552** – Expands the list of property exempt from attachment to clarify that all qualified retirement plans will be exempt.

I served as co-sponsor for the following bills:

**Senate Bill 401** – Passed by the General Assembly but vetoed by the governor, this bill would have added to the definition of crime under Missouri statutes. This change would have meant that a crime would occur at the time of the commission or attempted commission of the crime. The bill also increased the amount of money deposited from the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund to the state forensic laboratory account from \$250,000 to \$500,00.

**Senate Bill 651** - Names the "Norton/Cynthia" grape the official state grape of Missouri.

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*Sen. John Cauthorn, R-Mexico, and I discuss one of many issues being debated on the Senate floor.*

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**Senate Concurrent Resolution 1** – The first piece of legislation passed by the Missouri General Assembly this session rejects a citizens salary commission recommendation for pay raises for all elected offices and judges. The measure was passed unanimously in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

In November, the Missouri Citizens Salary Commission on Compensation recommended that all public officials should receive a 5.8 percent pay raise in 2004 and another 5.8 percent pay raise in 2005. The commission also recommended that judges get a pay increase of \$6,000 in 2004 and again in 2005.

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 16** – This resolution created the Joint Interim Committee on Education.

The committee, which I have been appointed to serve on, is charged with conducting an in-depth study concerning all issues relating to equity and adequacy of distribution of state school aid, teachers' salaries, funding for school buildings, and overall funding levels for schools and any other education-related issues the committee deems relevant.

One of the main focuses of this committee will be the education foundation formula and how it is distributed to school districts.

**Senate Resolution 919** – Creates an interim Senate committee on police officer residency requirements for political subdivisions in Missouri.

## Additional Funds Guarantee Veterans' Services Will Continue

The veterans of this state will receive additional funding as the result of passage of House Bill 444. I served as Senate sponsor of this bill, which guarantees that Missouri can continue to deliver high-quality services to veterans.

A \$2 boarding fee is charged at all casinos in the state. Half of that money goes to the communities in which the casino is located, and the other half goes to the Gaming Commission Fund. This fund is used for the operation of the Gaming Commission, with the remaining money distributed between the Veterans Commission Capital Improvement Fund, Early Childhood Education Fund, Missouri National Guard Scholarship Trust Fund, Missouri College Guarantee Fund and the Compulsive Gambler's Trust Fund.

Currently, \$3 million is transferred annually from the Gaming Commission Fund to the Veterans'

Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund. HB 444 allocates an additional \$3 million to the Veterans' Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund should the remaining net proceeds of the Gaming Commission Fund exceed \$28 million.

The Veterans Commission uses this money to operate the state's veterans' nursing home; veteran's cemeteries; maintenance and repair of veterans' facilities; and provides funding for veteran's memorials including the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City.

Right now the Missouri College Guarantee Fund receives \$3 million from the Gaming Commission Fund and an \$1.5 million if the remaining net proceeds exceed \$27 million. HB 444 alters the distribution by annually awarding the Missouri College Guarantee Fund \$4.5 million and an extra \$500,000 if the remaining proceeds of the Gaming Commission Fund exceed \$28 million.

## VFW Honors Yeckel



*I was truly honored when Jim Hughes, left, and Clark Pointer from the Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations (MAVO), presented me with a special award for my work in passing legislation benefiting the veterans of the state.*

In June, I was honored to receive the 2002-2003 Legislator of the Year Award from Missouri Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The veterans of this state have sacrificed so much for all of us, and I consider it a privilege to fight for their issues in the Missouri Senate.

With more than two million members, the Veterans of Foreign Wars is one of the largest veterans organizations in the United States. Any honorably discharged veteran who fought in a foreign military campaign of World War I or II, Korea, Vietnam or later conflict, are eligible to become a member if they have a medal or a service ribbon issued to them by the government for their service.

Inscribed on the award presented to me are the words: "In grateful appreciation for your leadership of veterans' issues in the Missouri Legislature."

As a lawmaker, one of my top priorities is protecting the welfare of our veterans. With their willingness to risk their lives for this nation, they have my undying gratitude.



## Popular Medals Program to Continue

A popular medals program honoring veterans of World War II has been extended and will soon be expanded to include veterans of the Korean War.

During the 2000 legislative session, the Missouri General Assembly passed legislation that paid tribute to World War II veterans living in Missouri. This session, lawmakers passed Senate Bill 219 extending the application deadline to July 1, 2004. Spouses or the eldest living survivor can also apply on behalf of veterans who died

prior to making application. I served as co-sponsor of this bill.

The award consists of a World War II Missouri Recognition medal, medallion and certificate. A replica of the Jubilee of Liberty medal is available to veterans who participated in the D-day Normandy Invasion. The application can be used to apply for both medals.

SB 219 also created the Korean Conflict Medallion Program, which will officially

start Jan. 1, 2004. The National Guard is currently preparing application forms for these medals.

An application form for the World War II medal is included in this newsletter. Applications for the awards are also available on the Missouri National Guard website, [www.moguard.com](http://www.moguard.com), by calling toll-free (866) 834-3431 or by writing Office of the Adjutant General, Attn: Director, WWII Veterans Recognition Program, P.O. 1808, Jefferson City, Mo., 65102; or by calling my Jefferson City office at (573) 751-2887.

## State Offers Seniors Help with Prescription Drugs

Applications will again be accepted for Missouri's SenioRx program beginning Jan. 1, 2004.

The enrollment period is short, so it's imperative that eligible seniors send their applications in quickly. The cost of prescription drugs has skyrocketed, and one of Missouri's most valuable assets – our seniors – deserve the state's assistance with these hefty bills.

Currently eligible seniors can obtain applications from local pharmacies, Area Agencies on Aging offices or through the program's web site located at [www.missouriseniorx.com](http://www.missouriseniorx.com). In addition, applications can be obtained by contacting Sen. Yeckel's Capitol office at (573) 751-2887, or calling the program's toll free number, (866) 556-9316.

Applications will be processed Jan. 1 through Feb. 28, 2004.

The Missouri SenioRx Program provides benefits for citizens who are at least 65 years of age, who have been residents of Missouri for at least 12 months, and who are not currently receiving Medicaid benefits. Total household income must be \$17,000 or below for an individual, or \$23,000 or below for a married couple.

Eligible seniors will receive discounts on eligible prescription medications after they meet an annual deductible. Once the deductible is met, the Missouri SenioRx Program will cover 60 percent of eligible prescription costs, with a maximum annual benefit of \$5,000. The deductible is based on income.

### 2003 Community Service Directory Additions

The following are telephone numbers and addresses that were inadvertently omitted from my 2003 Community Service Directory, which you should have received in the mail. This directory can now be found on the internet by going to my Senate web page at <http://www.senate.state.mo.us/03info/members/mem01.htm> and scrolling down to the 2003 Service Directory link.

If there are any mistakes or additions which need to be made to this directory, please contact my Jefferson City office, (573) 751-2887, or my St. Louis office at (314) 729-0541 and the changes will be made online.

#### County Schools – 1<sup>st</sup> District

Thomas Jefferson School  
4100 S. Lindbergh  
St. Louis, MO 63127  
314-843-4151

(Continued on Page 12)

# Highway Improvements Continue for Missouri

The following projects will be under construction during 2003:

**Route 21 bridge over Butler Lake** – This project will remove and replace the existing bridge and was awarded to Fred Weber for \$9.1 million. Construction is expected to be complete by winter 2003.

**Interstate 55 at Reavis Barracks, Route 231 at Erb, and Route 30 at Musik** – This project will remove, replace and upgrade existing signals and lighting. Construction is expected to be complete by fall 2003.

**Interstate 270 from Route 340 to Route 21** – This project will install Intelligent Transportation System devices. This project was awarded to Cable Contractors for \$2.2 million and is expected to be complete by fall 2003.

**Route 141 from Springdale Road to 61/67, Route 30 from 141 to MM, I-55 from Lindbergh to 4500 Broadway (St. Louis County/City), and I-44 from Meramec River to 141** – This full depth concrete pavement repair project was awarded to Bross Construction for \$3.3 million. Construction is expected to be completed by winter 2003/2004.

**Interstate 44, from Bowles Ave. to Meramec River** – This project will improve access to and from I-44. The project was awarded to Millstone Bangert Construction for \$5.5 million. Construction is expected to be complete by winter 2003/2004.

**Route 366 from Geyer to north of Grand Road** – This pavement rehabilitation project was awarded to N.B. West for \$2.9 million. Construction is expected to be complete by late 2003.

**Route 231 from Interstate 255 to Franru** – This pavement rehabilitation project has been completed.

**I-255 between I-55 and Jefferson Barracks Bridge** – This pavement rehabilitation project was awarded to James Cape and Sons for \$21 million and the construction is under way. Construction is expected to be complete by summer 2004.

**Route 61, from Mehl Ave. to Butler Hill** – This project will widen to five lanes, resurface and replace existing bridge over Mattesse Creek. This project was awarded to Fred Weber for \$7 million. Construction began this summer and is expected to be completed by fall 2004.

**Route 61/67 bridge over the Meramec River** – This project will replace and relocate the current bridge. The cost estimate is \$12.5 million. Construction is expected to start by winter 2003.

**Interstate 55 and 270 Interchange** – This project will install landscaping features to areas of the interchange that cannot be safely maintained. Construction is expected to begin in fall 2003.

**Route 141, from Route 40/61 to Route 61/67 (St. Louis and Jefferson Counties)** – This project will install raised pavement markers along Route 141. The project is expected to be completed by winter 2003/2004.

## Future Projects

**Lindbergh at Lemay** – This project will reconstruct the existing intersection and provide dual left turn lanes, free right turn lanes and dual thru lanes in all directions. The cost estimate is approximately \$5 million. Property acquisition has been accelerated through 2002 bond financing. Construction is expected to begin by summer 2004.

**Route 61/67 (Lemay Ferry Road) over I-255** – This bridge replacement project is expected to cost \$5.85 million with construction beginning in the fall of 2003. The Lemay Ferry Bridge will be closed beginning in January 2004 and will reopen by late October 2004.

**Route 231, from I-255 to Christopher** – This pavement resurfacing project was awarded to Pace Construction and construction is expected to begin by spring 2004.

**Interstate 44, from Bowles to Lewis Road** – This project will upgrade guardrail and is expected to cost approximately \$400,000. Construction is expected to be completed during summer/fall 2004.

**Route 30 over the Meramec** – This bridge deck replacement project is expected to cost approximately \$6 million. Construction is expected to begin by fall 2004.

**Route 366 at Sappington** – This project will provide dual left turn lanes for eastbound 366. The project is estimated to cost \$1.5 million. Construction is expected to begin by spring 2005.

**Route 61/67 from Kirkwood to Route 21** – This pavement-resurfacing project is estimated to cost \$5 million. Construction is expected to begin by 2007.



## (Highway Improvements Continued)

**Route 21, from Butler Spur to Meramec River** – This pavement-resurfacing project is estimated to cost \$3.5 million. Construction is expected to begin by 2007.

**Route 21 at Mattis Road** – This project will provide dual left turn lanes for southbound 21. Construction is expected to be complete during 2005.

**Route 255 over Mississippi River (Jefferson Barracks Bridge)** – This bridge rehabilitation project is expected to be completed during 2006.

**Route 30, from City to I-270** – This pavement-resurfacing project is estimated to cost \$8 million. Construction is expected to begin by 2008.

**Route 231 over I-255** – This bridge replacement project is estimated to cost \$7 million. Construction is expected to begin in 2007.



**Toll-Free Customer  
Service Line**

**1-888-ASK MODOT  
(1-888-275-6636)**

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## 1<sup>st</sup> District Residents Respond to 2003 Questionnaire

I want to thank all of you who responded to my 2003 questionnaire. I wanted to share some of the answers we received. This is an overview. The entire survey and results will be on my Senate webpage, [www.senate.state.mo.us/03info/members/mem01.htm](http://www.senate.state.mo.us/03info/members/mem01.htm).

On the matter of raising taxes to add revenue for the state budget, 67 percent of you shared my view that taxes should not be raised and that state government needs to learn to live within its means.

The problem of rapidly rising property taxes has reached a crisis point in St. Louis County, and the majority of you – 65 percent – believe that a “Homestead Exemption” should be granted to senior citizens on fixed incomes. This exemption would prohibit increases in the property tax assessment on their primary residence, so that seniors are not forced out of their homes by rising property taxes.

Fifty-nine percent of questionnaire respondents believe that the current education foundation formula should be thrown out, and that a new way of funding education should be found that is not dependent on property taxes. I am currently serving on the Joint Interim Committee on Education that is looking for alternatives to the current formula.

Gov. Bob Holden has proposed raising the fees on Missouri’s casinos and lifting the loss limits in order to gain additional money for education. The majority of those responding to this questionnaire – 45 percent – believe that gaming has already been expanded beyond the scope voters anticipated when they approved it.

Fifty-two percent of respondents favored legislation would create a Classroom Trust Fund that would restrict money designated to go toward education. The gambling money would be removed from the state’s foundation formula and distributed equally on a per-pupil basis. The money removed from the formula would have to be replaced with money taken from other areas in the budget.

Missouri’s roads and bridges are badly in need of repair.

However, in August of 2002 Missouri voters soundly rejected Proposition B, which would have raised a variety of taxes in order to fund improvements in Missouri’s transportation system. Ever since I was elected to the Senate in 1996, lawmakers have struggled to find a solution to this growing problem. Forty-one percent of you feel that all money collected for roads should go strictly toward building roads and if that were the case, the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) would have the necessary funds needed for road improvements. Thirty percent said that MoDOT needs to be reformed before another funding package is introduced.

This session marked the first time the impact of term limits was felt in the General Assembly. There were more than 90 new members in the House of Representatives and 12 new senators. A total of 55 percent of those responding said that they support term limits for the Missouri General Assembly and that term limits should be expanded to include all state offices.

Forty-five percent of you indicated that you believe the death penalty is an effective form of punishment and should remain in place. A total of 27 of respondents said they felt that if a jury is unable to unanimously agree on the imposition of the death penalty, then the judge should declare the punishment to be life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

The Bill of Rights guarantees all Americans a right to a trial by a jury of their peers. But that can only happen if each American answers the call when asked to serve on a jury. I have always believed that is one of the obligations that comes with living in a free society. A total of 53 percent of respondents indicated that they believe the current laws excusing some people from jury duty should remain as they are. Thirty-five percent said that they believed that virtually everyone who is called to serve should be required to do so.

Thank you again for taking the time to respond to this questionnaire.



## 2003 Community Service Directory Additions - *Continued from Page 9*

Providence Christian Academy  
5293 S. Lindbergh  
St. Louis, MO 63128  
314-842-6846

Life Christian School  
13001 Gravois Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63128  
314-842-1781

South Side Christian School  
5001 Little Rock Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63128  
314-487-8507

**County Lutheran Schools**  
Green Park Lutheran School  
4248 Green Park Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63125  
314-544-4248

Salem Gravois Lutheran School  
5025 Lakewood  
St. Louis, MO 63123

Washington Lutheran School  
4474 Butler Hill Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63128  
314-892-4408

**Public Schools - 1<sup>st</sup> District**  
Buder School  
5319 Lansdowne  
St. Louis, MO 63109  
314-352-4343

Lyon ABI  
7417 Vermont  
St. Louis, MO 63111  
314-353-1353

Mark Twain School  
5316 Ruskin  
St. Louis, MO 63116  
314-381-1616

Woerner School  
6131 Leona  
St. Louis, MO 63116  
314-481-8585

**Parochial**  
Immaculate Heart of Mary  
4070 Blow  
St. Louis, MO 63116

Our Lady of Sorrows  
5831 S. Kingshighway  
St. Louis, MO 63109  
314-353-1451

St. Boniface  
7604 Michigan  
St. Louis, MO 63111  
314-631-9577

**Lutheran**  
Hope Lutheran School  
5320 Brannon  
St. Louis, MO 63109  
314-832-1850

Salem Lutheran School  
8343 Gravois  
St. Louis, MO 63123

### **City of St. Louis**

#### State Representatives

Tom Villa  
3847 Holly Hills  
St. Louis, MO 63116  
314-531-2600  
573-751-0438

Michael Vogt  
6035 Weber Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63123  
573-751-9472

Fred Kratky  
6001 Bishops Pl.  
St. Louis, MO 63109  
573-751-4220

### **Mayor**

Honorable Francis G. Slay  
1200 Market St.  
St. Louis, MO 63103  
314-622-3201

### **Aldermanic President**

Honorable James F. Shrewsbury  
1200 Market St.  
St. Louis, MO 63103  
314-622-4114

### **Aldermen**

314-622-3287  
Matt Villa – Ward 11  
Fred Heitert – Ward 12  
Alfred Wessels, Jr. – Ward 13  
Stephen Gregali – Ward 14  
Donna Baringer – Ward 16

### **Citizens Service Bureau**

Room 234 – City Hall  
314-622-4661

### **Federal Office Holders**

Rep. Todd Akin  
District Office  
1023 Executive Parkway  
(314) 876-0513  
(314) 878-0491 – Fax

Washington D.C. Office  
117 Cannon House Office  
Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-2561  
(202) 225-2563 – Fax



## Senator Anita Yeckel

Room 323, State Capitol Bldg.  
Jefferson City, MO 65101



(314) 729-0541 - District Office

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