

Senator Jason Crowell

CROWELL CONNECTION

**Where Your
State Tax \$ Go**

**Improving Your Roads:
Smoother, Safer, Sooner**

**How Missouri is Getting
Tough on Crime**

**EXCLUSIVE:
Governor Blunt's
Message to the
27th District**

Future Leaders

...and More





MISSOURI SENATE

JASON G. CROWELL
27TH District

Last November, Missouri voters sent a clear message to state lawmakers: "We want change, we want action, we want results." I am proud to say that in the first session of the 93rd General Assembly, the leaders elected to the Missouri Legislature kept their promises.

Tort reform was passed and signed into law, which means doctors and businesses in Missouri will no longer need to leave the state to afford insurance.

We overhauled the workers' compensation system. The system will continue to protect employees injured on the job but will shield job providers from fraud that has riddled the system in recent years.

The state now has a new foundation formula to fund education. The new formula guarantees more dollars to our schools, ensuring that our Southeast Missouri children will have an opportunity to receive a world-class education.

Additionally, we took decisive action on balancing the state's budget. This ensured that the state will live within its means, thereby avoiding tax increases.

I would like to invite you to visit the Capitol anytime during session. We have had many special guests visit us this session, and their pictures are seen throughout the following pages.

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve in the Missouri Senate—it is a great honor to serve as your voice in Jefferson City.



A large, stylized handwritten signature of Jason G. Crowell in dark ink.

Senator Crowell represents the people of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry and Scott counties.

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Special Visitors



Sen. Crowell with former State Representative Mary Kasten (center) and Ruth Knotte (right).



Sen. Crowell with his former 7th grade teacher, Betty Schuette.



Scott City High School Students received recognition for their work in Show-Me Technology.



In January, the Cape Central Band, led by band director Neil Casey, marched in the inaugural parade in Jefferson City. The entire band, along with parents and instructors, included more than 90 people. The band performed the song "America."



In January, Southeast Missouri State University alumnus and Sikeston native Neal Boyd thrilled the crowd as he sang the National Anthem at the official inaugural swearing-in ceremony.

Four Reasons Missouri Schools are Stronger:

1. Largest School Budget in State History -

We once again reaffirmed our commitment to make the education of Missouri's children the number-one priority. For the next fiscal year we secured a significant 4-percent increase in our state's education budget, adding \$158 million without raising taxes.

2. New Foundation Formula -

We passed a new foundation formula that bases funding on the needs of Missouri school children, not the taxing capacity of the district. The formula provides \$800 million in new funding over the next seven years.

3. Higher Teacher Minimum Salaries -

Research shows that teacher quality is the leading predictor of student achievement. To retain our quality teachers and to attract new ones, we increased the minimum salary for teachers with a bachelor's degree by \$4,000 and for teachers with a master's degree by \$6,000.

4. Increased Funding for Parents as Teachers -

We added \$1 million to the Parents as Teachers Program. The program is offered by each school district and aims to educate parents on how to be their child's best "first" teacher.

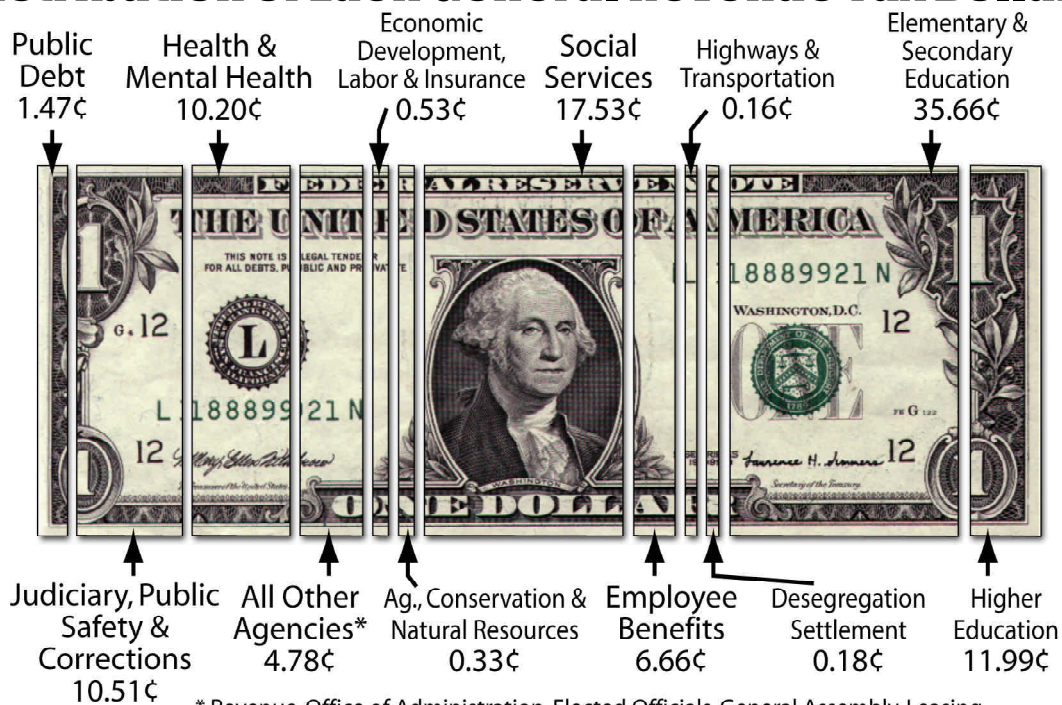


Increased Funding by County:

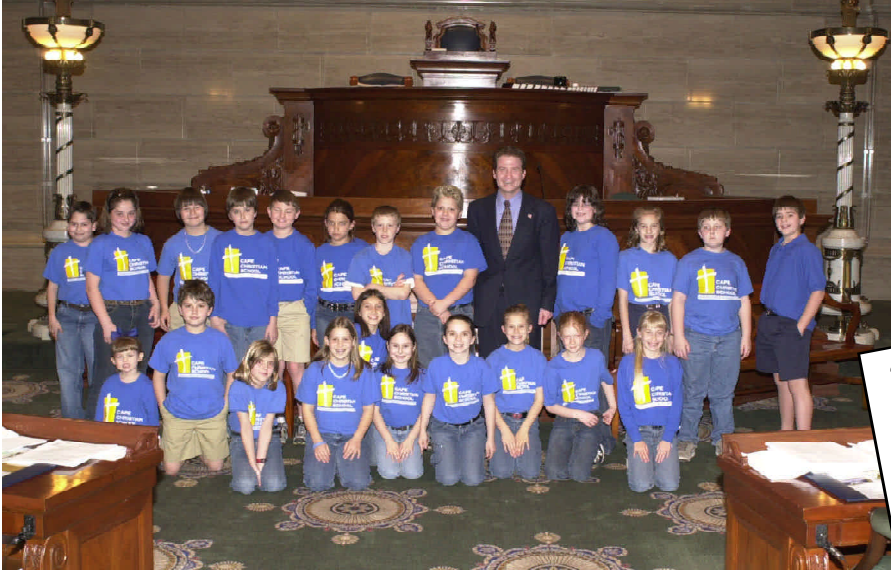
County	FY 2005	FY 2006
Bollinger	\$5,962,614	\$6,279,943
Cape Gir.	17,347,568	18,073,821
Madison	6,371,305	6,592,762
Mississippi	6,725,068	7,208,701
Perry	3,540,592	3,683,436
Scott	21,015,806	22,417,967

School district funding broken down by counties in the 27th district reflecting increases from Fiscal Year 2005 to 2006.

Distribution of Each General Revenue Tax Dollar



Future Leaders Visit Jefferson City:



"We had a wonderful trip. Everyone has been so helpful and kind to the kids the past four years. The kids just love to see Jason, whether it's us coming to the Capitol or him coming to our classroom."

Sharon Gentry
Fourth-Grade Teacher
Cape Christian School

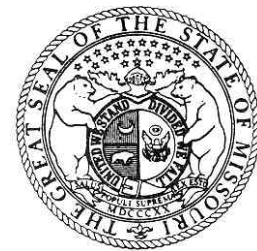
Fourth graders from Cape Christian School, March 10, 2005



Seventh and eighth graders, Concordia Lutheran School, April 27, 2005



Fourth graders, Blanchard Elementary, March 17, 2005



Fourth graders, Nell Holcomb School, April 28, 2005

Working to Make Our Communities Stronger

Better Roads Mean Safer Driving

The following projects are either already under way or scheduled for completion by the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)

- Interstate 55 - resurface, including shoulders, from the Ste. Genevieve/Perry County line to New Madrid County.
- Interstate 57- resurface, including shoulders, from I-55 to the Illinois state line and replace the bridge a half-mile mile East of I-55.
- Route 51- construct a new center turn lane at the Rt. 51/61 intersection and resurface various areas including the area from Rt. 72 to Rt. 34.
- Route 34- resurface, replace bridge, add signals, curb and gutter at the Rt. 25 intersection.
- Rt. 61, Rt. 62, Rt. 72, Rt. 80, Rt. AB, Rt. BB, and Rt. K - will receive extensive work as well.



Network Against Sexual Violence

"As Director of the Southeast Missouri Center I can never thank Senator Crowell enough for his tireless support of the center and protecting the funding. This is truly a successful public/private partnership that is about protecting children."

-Tammy Gwaltney - Director NASV

Funding will also continue for the Network Against Sexual Violence (NASV) in Cape Girardeau. Founded in 1997, the NASV is one of 15 child-advocacy centers in Missouri that provides forensic interviews and medical care to alleged victims of physical and sexual abuse. By coordinating the efforts of law enforcement, child welfare, juvenile authority and medical providers, the Center serves as a voice for victims. The NASV treats about 500 children annually, ages birth to 17. It serves 10 counties in the Southeast region — beginning North in Perry County, going south to the state line, and west to Wayne County.

Autism Research

We also were successful in securing \$200,000 in funding for community-based autism research. The money was dedicated to a Southeast Missouri based nonprofit organization to conduct research and implement a model for high-functioning individuals with autism. The model designed will evaluate individuals with autism to determine their skills and talents that are useful for transitioning into the workforce.

Rotary Club Soap Box Derby Declares Winner

Each year, the Rotary Club of Cape Girardeau sponsors a Soap Box Derby. This year Austin Martin, of Cape Girardeau, won the super stock division and Hunter Schuette, of Jackson, captured the stock division crown. This year Sen. Crowell raced Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder in the celebrity Soap Box Derby race. It was a close race throughout, and in the end the Rotary Club was the winner because it raised more than \$18,000. The derby was sponsored by Southeast Missouri Hospital.



Sen. Crowell, left, prepares to race Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder, right.

Gov. Blunt Praises New Era of Responsible Government



The people of the 27th District and all Missourians have much to be proud of as a result of this historic session. Your elected leaders have increased funding for public schools, enacted meaningful medical liability regulatory reform, balanced the state budget without imposing new taxes or raising existing taxes on Missouri's hard working families, reformed Missouri's social-welfare system to ensure that taxpayer-funded assistance is available for the most needy, and worked to reign in out-of-control state spending.

I am honored to have been given the opportunity to work with members of the Missouri General Assembly, like Sen. Jason Crowell, who share my firm belief that our state's best days lie ahead. Jason has emerged as a strong leader in the Senate just as he was in the Missouri House. His involvement was critical to the passage of many of our most complex and important pieces of legislation.

One of our greatest accomplishments this session was crafting a new school-funding formula that is more equitable, that provides significant funding for Missouri schools, that lives within the taxpayers' means and, most importantly, that is based on students' needs. In addition to repairing the funding formula, we also balanced a budget that includes a \$158-million increase in funding for Missouri's public schools, a significant 4.4 percent increase over last year.

I made a promise to the people of Missouri to lead our state in a new direction. I am happy to report that promise has been kept and our state is now on the right track toward greater opportunity and advancement for all Missourians.

Sincerely,

Getting Tough on Crime

Fighting Meth: We passed legislation to keep the key ingredients needed to produce meth – ephedrine and pseudoephedrine – out of the hands of meth cooks, and, by doing so, we will put them out of business. Senate Bill 10 requires drugs containing pseudoephedrine in the tablet form (not liquid or “gel-capsules”) be purchased from pharmacists. Purchases will be limited to nine grams (commonly three standard packages) per 30-day period.

Drunk Drivers: Senate Bill 37 increases the penalties for involuntary manslaughter in the first degree and requires those convicted to serve at least 85 percent of their sentences. The legislation also imposes stricter penalties for alcohol-related offenses committed by repeat offenders.

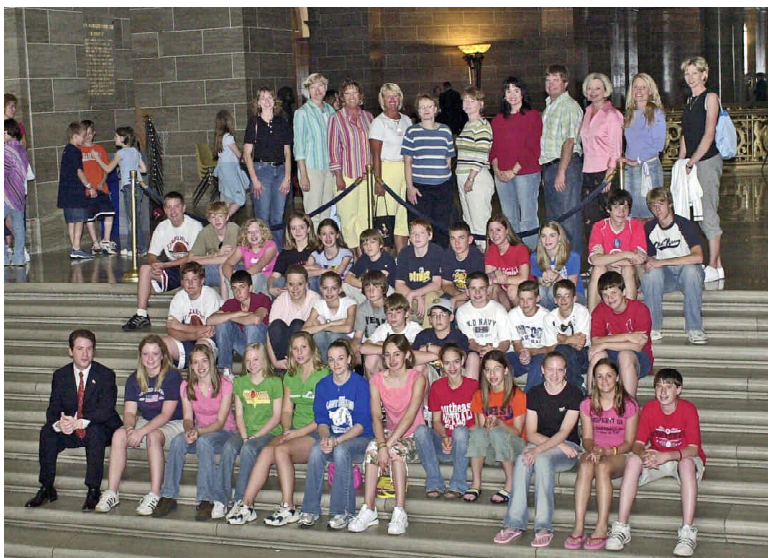
Sexual Predators: House Bill 972, sponsored by House Speaker Rod Jetton of Marble Hill, clarifies the crime of sexual misconduct. A person commits the crime when they expose themselves to a child younger than 14 years old. It also requires lifetime supervision by the Board of Probation and Parole for any person convicted of certain sexual offenses. The crime of violating a condition of lifetime supervision is established as a Class C felony.

Identity Theft: House Bill 353 establishes the crime of financially exploiting the elderly as a Class A felony, when damages total more than \$50,000. It also lowers financial thresholds that define identity theft as a crime.

Future Leaders Visit Jefferson City:



Seventh and eighth graders from St. Paul School, April 13, 2005



Alma Shrader fourth graders, March 31, 2005

Seventh and eighth graders from St. Augustine School, April 21, 2005



Fourth graders from Clippard Elementary, April 26, 2005



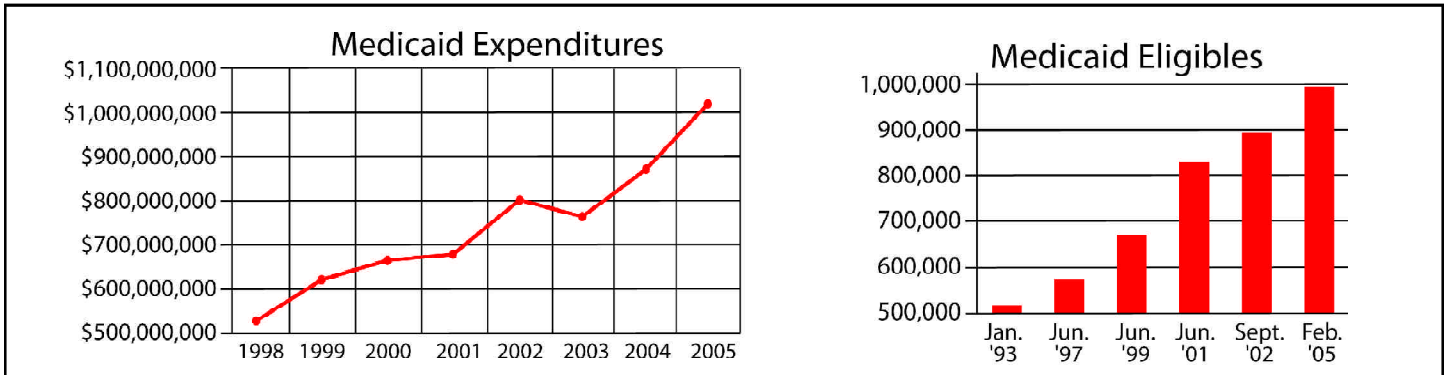
"We had an awesome experience — going up in the dome, doing a mock debate with Rep. Cooper, and going on the Senate floor with Sen. Crowell. I've seen many capitols around the country, and Missouri's is the most beautiful."

*Terri Jones
Fourth-Grade Teacher
Clippard Elementary*

Fighting Tax Increases

Missouri's Medicaid program swelled over the past 10 years. During that period, Medicaid expenditures grew by 17.4 percent, while Missouri taxpayer income grew by only 5 percent. The number of people eligible for Medicaid grew from just over 500,000 in 1993 to more than 1,000,000 in February of 2005.

Senate Bill 539 starts the reform by targeting the rampant waste, fraud and abuse that has hampered the program from operating efficiently and effectively. The legislation lays the groundwork for a system with stricter eligibility verification and oversight. These changes will protect the long-term sustainability of the program, ensuring that Missouri will continue to provide services to citizens who need them most.



Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder's Message to the District

The message of a smaller, more responsible and efficient government finally made its way to the halls of the Capitol in Jefferson City, and alongside my good friend, Senator Jason Crowell, we are exploring new and better ways to make state government work better for all of us.

I have had a front-row seat to the changes in Missouri's political landscape since I was first elected to the Missouri Senate in 1992 to be your senator. I started out as a minority party senator, but ended my time in the Senate as the President Pro-Tem. Senator Crowell has provided our district with real leadership and a commitment to serve all of the citizens of the 27th District.

As the official Senior Citizen Advocate for Missouri, I am committed to finding solutions that can improve the lives of our seniors. I am also the chairman of a new committee that will look at how efficiently state funds for senior programs are being spent. I have begun the tough job of searching for waste, fraud and abuse in how we spend taxpayer dollars. I also want to ensure that those who are truly in need receive assistance. A fair and efficient government should be the goal for all areas of state government.

I am constantly looking for new and better ways to serve our veterans. I support the work and mission of The Missouri Veterans Commission, and I am dedicated to helping the men and women who have served us all. The new Missouri Military Families Relief Fund ensures financial assistance for a family experiencing hardships while a family member is called away to serve in the global fight on terrorism. Thanks to all of you for your support.

Sincerely,

Peter Kinder



Lt. Gov. Kinder and Sen. Crowell greet National Guard members as they embark on the War on Terror.

Speaker Rod Jetton - Making History Together

When session started in January, we had an aggressive agenda. With a lot of hard work and a little compromise, we were able to keep our promises and have one of the most productive sessions in history.

First, we wanted to jump-start Missouri's economy and stop the exodus of jobs from our state. We passed tough legal reform, we fixed Missouri's broken workers' compensation system, and we created new incentives for employers to come to Missouri and stay here. These changes are helping drive an economic rebirth as our state is becoming a leader in job growth. Missouri is once again open for business!

Next, we wanted to spend your tax dollars wisely. We passed needed welfare reform. These changes will allow us to care for children, the elderly and disabled but prevent people from defrauding the system. With these improvements, we passed a balanced budget, without a single tax increase!

We also defied expectations by passing a new school-funding formula. Bringing everyone together, we were able to craft a formula that will vastly improve our schools and ensure that once again, education is Missouri's top priority.

Finally, we wanted to make sure that Missouri's families are safe. We passed several pieces of legislation cracking down on violent crime, sex offenders, meth production and drunk drivers. The law enforcement community is thrilled with the new tools we gave them to protect Missourians.

Sincerely,



Senate Leader Michael Gibbons

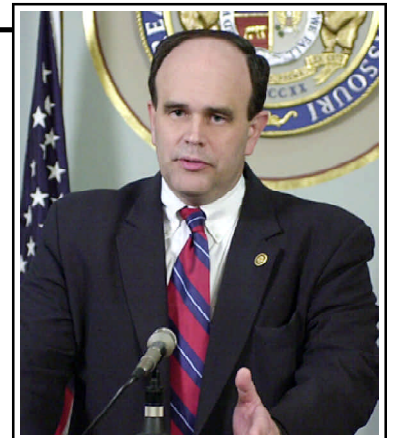
Sen. Crowell and I are working to make Missouri the best place to live, work and raise a family. The legislation we passed this year is the first phase to realizing that goal.

First and foremost are our children. We protected their health, education and future in every way possible. While protecting our children, we also protected taxpayers by adequately funding the critical functions of government without raising taxes. At the same time, we passed reforms that create more jobs. But we've just completed phase one of construction.

In phase two we are dedicated to creating a new healthcare system for the state of Missouri to replace Medicaid as we know it. It will be a system that will protect our most vulnerable people and better serve recipients, providers and taxpayers.

Sen. Crowell is a strong voice in Jefferson City and the Senate has gained from his service. Together, along with our Senate colleagues, we will continue to put the people of Missouri before politics so that you are the winners. I invite you to join us on the ground level in these efforts — Missouri is only building up from here.

Yours Truly,



Working to Bring Jobs to Missouri

These are four significant legislative actions that will improve our state's economic environment. No other state did more to improve job growth this past year than Missouri.

TORT REFORM

Increased lawsuit costs force businesses to move out of Missouri and doctors to stop practicing high-risk procedures. This legislation balances the state's civil liability system. The new law:

- Places a \$350,000 cap on non-economic damages, eliminating the possibility of outrageous jury awards in medical malpractice cases.
- Prohibits "venue shopping," a practice in which trials are moved to jurisdictions known for higher jury awards.
- States that defendants can only be responsible for the economic damages beyond their percentage of liability if the jury determined them to bear 51 percent or more of fault, and the other defendant(s) cannot cover their part.



Sen. Crowell, right, working with Sen. Chuck Purgason to bring jobs to Missouri.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

We restored fairness to Missouri's workers' compensation system by protecting rights of injured workers without threatening Missouri jobs. The legislation will free employers from frivolous rulings that hinder economic development in Missouri. The new law:

- Controls premium increases by ensuring that employers are only responsible for those injuries in which work is the direct cause of the injury.
- Limits benefits to employees found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the injury.
- Subjects those who attempt to abuse the workers compensation system to a Class D felony.

SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY FAIRNESS

- Allows small businesses a greater voice with the Small Business Regulatory Fairness Board.
- The Board provides a forum to discuss the impact of government agency regulations on small businesses.
- Helps put small businesses on a more level playing field with larger companies.

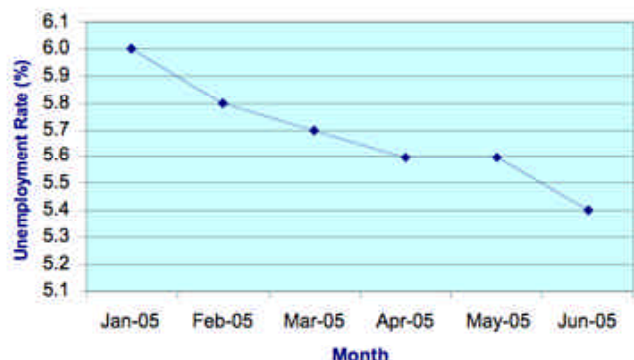
MISSOURI QUALITY JOBS ACT

- Establishes financial incentives to attract new jobs to Missouri without negatively affecting our existing state revenues.
- Businesses can utilize a tax credit equal to the new amount of tax revenue that jobs would bring to the state.

States with the Fastest Job-Growth Rate Jan. 2005 - June 2005

1. Idaho
2. Nevada
3. Montana
4. Kansas
5. Arizona
6. Utah
7. **Missouri (39,700 new jobs)**

Missouri Unemployment, Jan-Jun 2005



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