



SENATOR MATT BARTLE

District 8 – Capitol Building, Room 431 Jefferson City, MO

65101

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Let Your Voice Be Heard

In a few short days, Missouri's citizen legislature will once again convene in Jefferson City to begin the 2006 session of the General Assembly. Many important issues will be debated this year and so now is the time to let your voice be heard. With this in mind, I wanted to let you know about the legislative survey I've recently mailed out – many will have already received it or will be getting it shortly. The brief questionnaire asks for your input on several important issues and there is also a place for your comments. The issues listed in the survey are as follows:

Property Rights: The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled that private land -- including houses, churches and businesses -- can be seized by local governments if a greater economic use is proposed. Would you support legislation preventing the seizure of private property?

Sex Offender Sentencing: I will be filing legislation dramatically increasing penalties on first-time sex offenders who molest children. Would you support legislation instituting a mandatory minimum jail sentence of 30 years for first-time offenses involving rape or sodomy of a pre-pubescent child?

Sex Offender Registries: Earlier in 2005 I helped pass a law requiring certain sex offenders to wear tracking bracelets. Would you support a law requiring convicted sex offenders who refuse to keep their current address registered to wear similar tracking units?

Adult Businesses: I've advanced common-sense restrictions on the multi-billion-dollar pornography industry, including banning billboard advertising and requiring customers to be at least age 21. Would you support further restrictions on these businesses?

Human Cloning: Some scientists want to experiment on stem cells taken from human embryos created for research by human cloning. Others argue that Missouri should only allow stem cell research using adult stem cells – a form of research not involving the killing of human embryos. Would you support a ban on human cloning?

A place to add comments is also included. For added convenience, I've also put the survey online at www.senate.mo.gov/bartlesurvey. Feel free to complete and return the hardcopy version, or fill out the online version. (In order to get the most accurate count, I ask that you only submit your opinions only once, please.)

Representative democracy works best when those represented have the opportunity to voice their opinions. Thank you for your time, your opinions and the privilege of representing your interests in the Missouri Senate. May health, peace and prosperity be with you and yours for the New Year.

If you have comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by e-mail at matt_bartle@senate.state.mo.us or by phone at (888) 711-9278.

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