



STATE SENATOR JASON CROWELL - ROOM 323, STATE CAPITOL - JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

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## Missouri's Economic Growth

### *Holding the Line on Taxes Leads Missouri to Strong Economic Growth*

During my five sessions in the General Assembly, I have worked to restore personal responsibility and eliminate waste and government excess across the board. To hold the line on taxes, we had to reform our state's health-care welfare system, Medicaid, this year. To put Missourians back to work, we passed much-needed lawsuit and workers' compensation reforms, and the Missouri Quality Jobs Act that established financial incentives to attract jobs to Missouri. So far this year we have succeeded in attracting new businesses, promoting job growth, and reforming flaws that previously held Missouri back. Judging from current economic trends, our vision is paying off.

According to the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Missouri's unemployment rate is among the lowest on record since 2001. This means that over 18,000 more Missourians are working now than compared to a year ago; 18,000 families with a brighter Christmas. Estimates also show that since January, more than 27,000 new Missouri jobs were created. As a result, Missouri's revenue collections are growing. As of the end of November, Missouri is actually \$52 million ahead of its predicted revenue collections. Individual income tax collections for the month of October were \$29.5 million higher than October 2004. Overall, for the first five months of the current fiscal year, individual income tax collections are up \$129 million.

The bottom line is Missouri's economy is on the right track. Employment growth is one of the strongest in the nation as we added 27,000 new jobs since January. Given that Missouri lost over 50,000 jobs in 2001 and 2002, the turnaround is remarkable. One of the biggest reasons for the turnaround was the legislature's decision not to raise taxes. When we decided not to raise taxes, we avoided killing the state's economic recovery. The decision is paying off; more Missourians have jobs than a year ago, and unemployment is among the lowest it's been. This means that more Missourians are working and paying taxes, rather than fewer Missourians paying more in taxes, and Missouri is collecting more in tax revenue than ever. This is why we should say no to those who want to raise your taxes.

Clearly, the answer to economic troubles is not to increase taxes. But for those tax-and-spend liberals who disagree and want you to pay higher taxes, I am introducing legislation for the 2006 session that will create a "Tax-Me-More Fund." This will enable anyone who thinks they are undertaxed to contribute however

much money they want to the state. Trust me, the bureaucrats in Jefferson City will spend it. They love to spend your money. I wonder how many tax-and-spend liberals will voluntarily pay more in taxes???

### **Third Important Lesson- Always Remember Those Who Serve**

This week is the third story in the series of five that a friend of mine e-mailed me entitled: “Five Important Lessons To Make You Think About the Way You Treat People.”

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10-year old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him. “How much is an ice cream sundae?” he asked. “Fifty cents,” replied the waitress. The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied the coins in it. “Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?” he inquired. By now more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient. “Thirty-five cents,” she brusquely replied. The little boy again counted his coins. “I’ll have the plain ice cream,” he said.

The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier, and left. When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies. You see, he couldn’t have the sundae, because he had to have enough to leave her a tip.

### **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: [jcrowell@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com> and <http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.

*Senator Jason Crowell proudly represents the people of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry and Scott counties in the Missouri Senate.*