



STATE SENATOR
KEVIN ENGLER

LEGISLATIVE REPORT 2006 — District 3

Dear Friends,

My second legislative session as your state senator has come to a close. Once again, the session was marked with many challenges as well as victories. By the time lawmakers adjourned on May 12, we had sent to the governor 165 bills that will make Missouri a better place in which to live, work and do business.

We approved legislation cracking down on sexual predators, protecting the rights of property owners, reducing voter fraud, upholding the integrity of democracy and paving the way for an environmentally sound energy policy.

The budget we passed reflects our commitment to public education and our appreciation for state workers who, this fiscal year, will see the most significant single pay raise in two decades.

This legislative report highlights these and other important initiatives considered by the General Assembly.

I will continue to hold monthly Listening Posts around the district, so if you need to speak to me or a member of my staff face-to-face and can't travel to Jefferson City or Farmington, I will be coming to your area. Please check your local paper and radio stations for more information regarding a Listening Post in your area.

Also, please notify my staff of any important events that I or my staff can attend. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us. It is truly an honor and a privilege to represent you in the Missouri Senate. I wish you a blessed, fun and safe summer!

Sincerely,

Kevin Engler



Keeping our children **SAFE**

With the passage of HB 1698, the Legislature empowered Missouri to better prevent sexual predators from harming Missouri children. The measure includes language from several bills sponsored by Sen. Engler.

The main provisions of the bill are:



SOURCE: Missouri Department of Corrections



Mandatory Prison Sentences:

Anyone convicted of forcible rape or sodomy of a child under the age of 12 will be sentenced to life in prison and must serve at least 30 years before they will be considered for parole.



Sexual Assault by a Teacher:

The crime of sexual contact with a student can now be committed by a student teacher, employee of the school, volunteer, a person employed by a contractor providing services to the school.



Cyber-Crimes Unit:

To track down cyber predators who use the anonymity of the Internet to lure in children, this provision authorizes the creation of a panel to distribute grants to law enforcement task forces to patrol online social networks and chat rooms.



Sexual Trafficking of a Child:

Those found guilty of sexual trafficking of a child younger than 12 years of age will face a felony punishable by life in prison without eligibility for parole for 25 years.

PROTECTING property Rights



Eminent domain laws allow governments to condemn and buy out private property for “public use” as long as just compensation is paid. The laws were established so that projects such as building government facilities or making improvements to public infrastructure could revitalize struggling areas.

But the U.S. Supreme Court last year ruled that governments can seize private property for economic purposes, such as an increased tax base or more jobs. Because lawmakers believed this interpretation of “public use” to be unfair, unethical and arguably unconstitutional, they passed House Bill 1944.

Although the bill is a step in the right direction, it does not go as far as Sen. Engler would have liked. Sen. Engler filed a bill that would have prohibited eminent domain from being used for any economic development purpose.

The legislation:

- Prohibits eminent domain from being used in projects solely for purposes of economic development.
- Prevents farmland from being designated as “blighted.”
- Ensures that when eminent domain is used for traditional public use, compensation will be based on several factors including: heritage value, fair-market value, willingness of the owner to sell the property and the costs of relocation and replacement.



STANDING UP FOR *American* IDEALS

The Missouri Legislature took significant steps this year to protect the essence of democracy. The following measures will help strengthen constituents' trust in elected officials, renew their faith in the election process, and affirm their right to privacy.

Passed: HB 1900

Bringing accountability to campaign financing.

The legislation:

- Allows the public to see who gives what money to whom.
- Prohibits candidates at the state level from receiving campaign contributions during legislative session.
- Forbids lobbyists to pay for out-of-state travel expenses unless they are approved in advance.



Sen. Engler (left) discusses legislation with Senate President Pro Tem Michael Gibbons.

Passed: SB 1014

Ensuring that Missouri elections are fair and honest.

- Requires that voters provide photo identification when casting a ballot.
- Exempts those who are over 65, disabled and homebound, or have religious objections to showing a photo ID.
- Provides a free photo ID to anyone who cannot afford one.
- Makes it a felony to provide false information or use violence at the polls with the intent to prevent someone from voting.

Passed: SB 578

Ending abuse of First Amendment rights.

A radical Kansas church had been abusing the freedom of speech by protesting the funerals of U.S. soldiers to spread their message. This insensitive and cruel behavior only caused more pain for the grieving families and friends.

Lawmakers believed that the First Amendment rights of the church members ended where the mourners' rights began, so they quickly passed SB 578. The measure states that funeral protests cannot be held within one hour prior to and one hour after the completion of

funerals in Missouri. Because the bill had an emergency clause, the law immediately went into effect upon the official signing in February.

The U.S. Congress has since passed a similar ban on protests at national cemeteries.



Sen. Engler with students from Arcadia Valley.

MORE SUCCESSES

A Meaningful Clarification

Sen. Kevin Engler succeeded in garnering final passage of a measure expanding the definition of a "volunteer fire protection association." Senate Bill 863 includes municipal fire departments that are staffed by volunteers under what is considered a volunteer fire department in Missouri.



Sen. Engler meets with members of Lesterville's volunteer fire department.

The measure allows all volunteer fire districts to file the service boundaries of their associations with the county administrative body.

This ensures a blanket of coverage for all areas and cuts down on overlapping services

In addition, the bill gives these volunteer fire districts, such as the one in Park Hills, a

mechanism to collect outstanding fees for service. Also, the legislation prevents cities from being sued for full liability when actions of its volunteer fire department outside of municipal boundaries result in property loss, injury or death.

A New VA Clinic For Our Veterans

Lawmakers passed SB 612, which Sen. Engler sponsored, enabling the state of Missouri to convey land to American Legion Post 416 in Farmington for construction of a new veterans community-based outpatient clinic.

The current VA clinic on Maple Valley Drive is too small and has a six-month waiting list. The new 3,400 square-foot facility, which will be at the intersection of Hwy. W and Westmount Drive in Farmington, will be more accommodating, more accessible and more efficient for veterans in each of the counties in the Parkland area.

PUMPED FOR THE FUTURE



Lawmakers took a significant step to move Missouri toward a more environmentally sound energy policy and decrease the state's dependency on foreign oil.

HB 1270 requires that most gasoline sold in Missouri contain a 10 percent ethanol blend beginning Jan. 1, 2008. The move toward ethanol is understandable, considering all of the benefits of using the renewable fuel.

The new standard, which will rely heavily on the state's corn crop, will help Missouri farm families, boost the state economy and improve air quality. Plus, the more ethanol Missouri uses, the less the state will have to rely on costly foreign oil imports.



Sen. Engler and Rep. J.C. Kuessner with a group of students from South Iron.

SEN. ENGLER'S LEGISLATION

Outlawing Unwanted Tele-Solicitations

With the goal of strengthening the state law against unwelcome telecommunication solicitations, Sen. Engler sponsored SB 613. The measure would have enabled the no-call list to include voice calls to all wireless phones and the sending of graphic images, data communications and text messages to business and residential faxes and phones.

Just Payment For Correctional Officers

To end the high turnover rate at the Department of Corrections, Sen. Engler sponsored SB 705 to establish a minimum salary amount and annual raises based on years of service for correctional facility officers. Although the measure did not clear the Legislature, correctional officers will receive an 8 percent pay raise this year.

Consumer-Friendly Insurance Reform

HOMEOWNER'S INSURANCE

Sen. Engler sponsored a comprehensive insurance bill, which included a provision outlawing insurance companies from mistreating Missourians who have suffered property loss and damage due to the weather.

Under SB 895, insurance companies would no longer have been able to drop, refuse to write, refuse to renew or raise the rates of any Missourian who inquires about or files an insurance claim for property damaged by bad weather.

MALPRACTICE INSURANCE

The Missouri Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) and the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys (MATA) recognized Sen. Engler for his efforts this year to bring transparency and accountability to the medical-malpractice insurance industry.

Sen. Engler successfully amended HB 1837 to prevent sudden, unchecked increases in the price of malpractice insurance that doctors must pay. Aug. 28 is the effective date of the law.

In the Name of Safety

FOR DAMS

To prevent disasters like last December's failure of Ameren UE's Taum Sauk reservoir, Sen. Engler sponsored SB 1236. The bill would have imposed regulations on dams and reservoirs that present a danger to human life or substantial property damage.

FOR BLASTING

SB 882, sponsored by Sen. Engler, would have established statewide standards for licensing those who use explosives for excavation purposes.



Helping Those Who Help Us

Because brave Missouri men and women who donate their time and efforts to a volunteer fire service should not have to sacrifice their livelihoods in order to serve their communities, Sen. Engler sponsored SB 666.

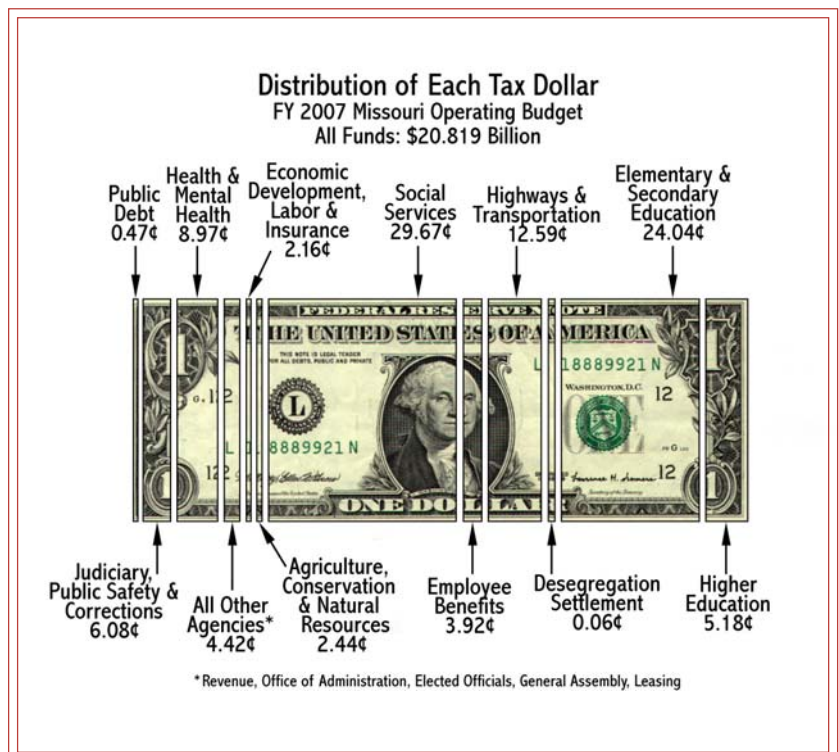
The legislation would have prohibited employers from firing an employee for joining a fire department as a volunteer or for missing work to respond to an emergency requiring their volunteer services.

\$\$ MO MONEY \$\$

Each year, the General Assembly must determine how to budget taxpayer money for the next fiscal year. This session, the Legislature passed a \$20.8 billion spending plan that reflects responsible financial planning.

The 2007 fiscal year budget allots:

- \$2.6 billion to Missouri public school districts, including \$136 million for public schools in the 3rd Senate District.
- A 2 percent increase for state colleges and universities, including more than \$5 million for Mineral Area Community College, \$7.7 million for Jefferson College and \$4.4 million for Three Rivers Community College.
- Nearly \$3 million for state parks and historic sites in the area.
- A 4 percent pay increase for all state employees, except elected officials, and an 8 percent raise for correctional officers.
- A \$400 million increase for roads and bridges.
- \$6.2 billion for the Dept. of Social Services – 4 percent more than last year.
- A \$200 million increase for Medicaid.
- More than \$17 million for the Southeast Missouri Mental Health Center.



LEFT: Sen. Engler with members of the Black Night TV class from Farmington High School.



RIGHT: Sen. Engler on the dais with students from Potosi High School.

Here to Help You

If you have concerns or questions about legislative proposals, need assistance interacting with other state agencies or are looking for information about state services, Sen. Engler's staff is here to help you.



Karen Jacquin

Karen Jacquin lives in Holts Summit and has been Sen. Engler's legislative assistant since he was elected to the House in 2002.

She has nine years of experience with the state and is currently responsible for managing the Capitol office, scheduling appointments and handling constituent concerns with state agencies.



Jarad Falk

Jarad Falk moved from Lee's Summit to Farmington in 2003 to work in politics. During session, he researches issues, helps Sen. Engler file legislation, tracks bills

referred to the senator's committees and keeps up on the measures scheduled to be heard on the floor. When the Senate is not in session, he manages the district office and handles constituent issues.



Michael Lodewegen

Michael Lodewegen served as an intern this session. He is from Memphis, Mo., in the northeast part of the state.

He attends Missouri State University in Springfield, where he is a senior majoring in political science.



Jenna Prendergast

Jenna Prendergast also served as an intern during this session.

She is from Bunker and just graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with degrees in sociology and political leadership.

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It's a Boy!!!

Meet Winston Engler



Many of you might recall seeing me with my dog Winnie on the campaign trail. Unfortunately she passed away last winter. But we have a new canine member in the Engler family. His name is Winston, and he is an English Bulldog. He is infamous for his

generosity when it comes to giving slobbery kisses, and his droopy puppy-dog eyes have been known to tug on the heart-strings of anyone who looks his way. He does what he can to avoid long walks, will take the shade over the sun any day and is never one to turn down belly rubs.



LEFT: Sen. Engler with members of the student government from Mineral Area College.



RIGHT: Sen. Engler with Rep. Brad Robinson and fourth-graders from Bismarck Elementary.

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