

John State Senator  
**Loudon**  
District 7

**INSIDE:**

Getting Tough on  
Sexual Predators

MOHELA

Eminent Domain  
Reform

Emissions Testing

Ethanol Standard



Dear Friends,

My colleagues and I in the Missouri General Assembly last year set the state on a course for success by creating a more efficient government while encouraging job growth. We made important strides in keeping healthcare costs down and doctors from leaving our state. We revamped an abused workers' compensation system. A new education formula has replaced a broken, inadequate funding system. With state government needing to live within its means, we passed a balanced budget without a tax increase.

This year we're continuing along the course of success. In this report, I've outlined the status of four issues of particular importance to me:

**Eminent Domain:** While the Missouri Constitution assures the power of governments to obtain private property for public use, Missourians demanded the enactment of tight controls to uphold the constitutionally granted rights of homeowners.

**Energy Policy:** By addressing Missouri's future energy needs today and incorporating alternative sources, we are paving the way for our children's energy independence.

**Sexual Predators:** All evidence indicates that sexual predators are moving from the playgrounds to the efficiency of the Internet to find their victims. Our omnibus sexual predator legislation created a grant program that I authored to hire more "cyber" detectives. It also expanded "Jessica's Law" and "Megan's Law" in an attempt to make Missouri the safest state for children.

**Medicaid Reform:** Legislators took an important first step in rescuing the state's taxpayer-funded healthcare program from the brink of extinction; this year, the work continues.

We've accomplished much to date, yet more remains to be done. Working together, we can make Missouri an even better place to live, work and raise our families. It is a privilege and an honor to represent your interests in the Missouri Senate.

Sincerely,



John Loudon  
Senator  
7<sup>th</sup> Senate District



## Contact Senator John Loudon

Senator Loudon and his legislative staff are always ready to answer any questions concerning the Missouri Legislature.

Feel free to call Sen. Loudon's Capitol office at (573) 751-9763 or his district office at (314) 895-0007.

Visit Senator Loudon online at: [www.senate.mo.gov/loudon](http://www.senate.mo.gov/loudon)



## Protecting Our Children from Sexual Predators:

*Parents — Do You Know Where Your Children are Going Online?*

*Sen. Loudon co-authors sex crimes legislation and creates program to hire cyber detectives to go after Internet predators and child pornographers.*

The Internet is a virtual hazard zone that is exploding in growth each day — the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reports that 1 in 5 children between the ages of 11 and 15 has received an unwanted sexual solicitation over the Internet. Law enforcement does not have enough resources to protect our children from Internet predators and child pornographers.

That is why I sponsored and advanced Senate Bill 1047, which is designed to provide money to hire more “cyber” detectives across Missouri to go after Internet predators before they harm our children.

So far we have appropriated \$250,000 to start the program. Our goal is to increase that amount next year to about \$3 million, so we can have an additional 40 to 50 cyber detectives covering all regions of the state.

Predators who violate children are going to receive hard jail time under provisions contained in the



*Senator Loudon discusses his Internet-predator legislation at the Children's Advocacy Center of the University of Missouri–St. Louis.*

omnibus crime bill (HB 1698) we passed this year that features my cyber detective initiative and other important safety measures.

Under HB 1698, sex offenders who commit forcible rape or sodomy of a child under age 12 will be sentenced to prison for life without the eligibility for parole for 30 years. Those convicted of enticing or attempting to entice a child for a sexual purpose, whether by Internet or other means, will receive a prison sentence of between 5 and 30 years.

The measure also gives probation and parole officers access to sex offenders' home computers, requires the Missouri

Highway Patrol to operate a toll-free hotline to help disseminate information regarding sex offenders, and allows the publication of sex offender information in newspapers.

We have one of the toughest laws in the country now, but parents need to remain vigilant.

## Property Rights: Upholding Core American Values

In last year's *Kelo v. City of New London (Conn.)* case, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that governments are legally allowed to seize the homes of citizens so that private developers can use the land to build new businesses. This judicial activism leaves the door open for the abuse of property rights.

However, the court ruled that states can pass laws limiting the purposes for which eminent domain can be used. In 2006, Missouri lawmakers passed a bill limiting eminent domain abuse.

HB 1944 prohibits eminent domain from being used solely for economic development. The legislation



also prohibits farmland from being considered “blighted.”

HB 1944 also requires factors such as fair market value and heritage value to be considered when deciding fair compensation for property taken through eminent domain. Those who have had their homes taken by a condemning authority are required to receive 25 percent more than the home's value.

Under the heritage value provision, homes, farms or businesses that have been in the same extended family for at least 50 years will automatically receive an additional 50 percent of the land's value. This bill offers needed protections to property owners.

## Foundation Formula: *Providing for Missouri Schools*

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A year after the General Assembly approved the most comprehensive school funding formula in Missouri history, lawmakers are fully funding the initiative in 2006.

The K-12 foundation formula in 2006 is set to receive a \$127 million funding increase, with an additional \$15 million going to the Small Schools Grant program.

The funding plan, which will be fully phased in by Fiscal Year 2014, ultimately will provide an additional \$830 million to Missouri schools each year.

Missouri's foundation formula determines a minimum



per-student dollar amount needed to provide an adequate education (currently \$6,100), a figure devised by studying the best-performing districts in the state.

The formula also guarantees that each Missouri district will receive at least that much to spend on students and will not reduce state education funds in any Missouri district.

The General Assembly made a commitment to Missouri students in 2005, and we are following up on our pledge.

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## Guarding Against Illegal Immigration

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Legislation strengthening Missouri's laws on illegal immigration was approved by the Senate in 2006.

Senate Bill 1250 requires members of the Missouri State Highway Patrol to receive training on federal immigration laws from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The legislation also allows police officers in Missouri to apprehend illegal immigrants and transfer them to federal immigration officials. Also under the measure, illegal immigrants are prohibited from attending public

colleges and universities in Missouri.

We cannot keep incentivising people who have come here illegally and put a strain on public resources.

The time has come to crack down on illegal immigration to save taxpayer dollars and keep jobs available to Americans.

Although this measure ultimately did not pass the Legislature, we will continue to work to give law enforcement personnel the tools they need to help put a stop to the problem.

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## Emissions Testing Reform:

*Striking a balance between clean air and convenience*

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Lawmakers passed in 2006 legislation decentralizing the current emissions-testing program to make the process easier and more convenient for consumers.

In place of the handful of specialized emissions testing stations throughout the St. Louis metro area, both mechanical inspections and emissions inspections will be available at other service stations.

The legislation (SB 583) also loosens restrictions on Missouri motorists. Vehicles manufactured before 1996 will be exempt from emissions inspections and will only be required to undergo a gas cap pressure test, which will be included in their safety inspection.

New vehicles will not be required to undergo an emissions test for four years after being purchased. Also, individuals who qualify as low-mileage drivers, those who drive less than 6,000 miles per year, will not be required to undergo emissions testing.

Although emissions regulations are designed to ensure a fair quality of life for residents of the St. Louis area, previous guidelines were a nightmare for consumers.

This legislation will implement common-sense changes to make testing easier for Missourians who cannot afford expensive repairs.

## **MOHELA: Investing in Education and Healthcare**

The Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA) provides students and parents in Missouri and across the country with low-cost, federally guaranteed loans. The program also offers consolidation of student and parent loans. MOHELA has 270 employees at its headquarters located in Chesterfield in the 7<sup>th</sup> Senate District.

The governor has proposed a sale of some of the assets of MOHELA so that the proceeds can be used to fund capital-improvement projects for state universities and colleges and provide scholarships for students. The Senate and House followed with proposals of their own, but were unable to reach a compromise before the legislative session ended May 12.

The governor has stated a desire to go forward with his plan and has been backed by a resolution from the board members for MOHELA. At the MOHELA board's



March 10 meeting, a resolution was passed supporting the governor's initiative and states the desire that MOHELA remain a financially viable, independent nonprofit agency.

There could be as much as \$450 million that might be realized from a sale of some of MOHELA's assets. The MOHELA board has commissioned a financial study to review the feasibility and impact the governor's plan would have on MOHELA in an effort to support the governor's plan.

It has not yet been determined how much the governor and MOHELA can do without legislative approval.

I am sensitive to concerns regarding the rising cost of higher education in Missouri and throughout the United States, and I hope we can come to an agreement that is in the best interests of Missouri students and MOHELA.

## **Leadership Academy Day: Instilling Civic Values**

Our 2005-2006 Leadership Academy students and their families visited Jefferson City in February to take part in the Capitol tour.

The day was packed with exciting events, including a tour of the Governor's Mansion, a trip to the top of the Capitol and a visit to the Senate chamber as guests of our office.



President's Day 2006 marked the 12th year for our Leadership Academy.

For some students, the day marked their first visit to Jefferson City. They witnessed lawmakers during floor debate, saw a falcon's nest at the top of the Capitol dome and took time out for pizza at a nearby restaurant.

## **Highway 141 Update**

To continue our economic development efforts in the 7<sup>th</sup> District, my office has worked closely with the Missouri Department of Transportation and others to expand Highway 141 to six lanes between I-64 and Olive Boulevard, and to extend Hwy. 141 with at least four lanes from Olive to Page Avenue.

So far, MoDOT has committed to covering all the engineering and design costs (estimated at \$6.4 million) for the first leg up to Olive and we are actively pursuing funds to pay for right-of-way acquisition (\$9

million) and construction (\$62 million).

The next step will be to extend Highway 141 north from Olive to connect with the Maryland Heights and Earth City Expressways. We have been working closely with Congressman Akin. He has proposed a \$2 million feasibility and environmental impact study to determine the best route.

When these projects are complete, the expanded highway will create an outer belt stretching from I-55 in the south to I-70 and I-370 in the north.

## Renewable/Alternative Fuels:

### *Setting a Course Toward Energy Independence*

My legislative colleagues and I made significant progress this year to move Missouri toward a more environmentally sound energy policy and decrease the state's dependency on foreign oil.

The *Green Power Initiative*, Senate Bill 915, would gradually increase Missouri's use of renewable energy sources by directing the state's regulated utilities to produce more electricity from sources other than coal, natural gas and petroleum.

The legislation calls on regulated utilities in Missouri to get:

- 3 percent** of their electrical energy from renewable sources by 2012.
- 7 percent** by 2015.
- 10 percent** by 2020.



Although this bill did not pass in 2006, we will continue working to pass the measure. These efforts will bring sustainability and responsibility to Missouri's energy supply and help keep consumer rates at affordable levels.

The Legislature has approved a measure mandating that most gasoline sold in the state consist of at least 10 percent ethanol by Jan. 1, 2008.

This standard will benefit Missouri farm families, significantly boost the state's economy and improve air quality.

Plus, the more ethanol Missouri uses, the less the state will have to rely on costly foreign oil imports.

## Legislation Advanced in 2006

### Co-authored by Sen. Loudon:

**HB 1698** — Strengthens laws against sex offenders. This bill and SB 588 incorporated many provisions of Sen. Loudon's SB 563 and SB 1047, including:

- Abortion clinic personnel are mandatory reporters of rape and incest.
- Missouri Highway Patrol to operate a toll-free hotline to help disseminate information regarding sex offenders.
- Sex offenders who commit forcible rape or sodomy of a child under age 12 would be sentenced to prison for life without the eligibility for parole for 30 years.
- Those convicted of enticing or attempting to entice a child for a sexual purpose would receive a prison sentence of between 5 and 30 years.
- Probation and parole officers have access to sex offenders' home computers.
- Allows the publication of sex offender information in newspapers.
- Establishes a grant program to hire and train cyber detectives pursuing Internet predators of children.

### Sponsored by Sen. Loudon:

**SB 837** — Modifies the membership of various governing bodies that administer state insurance programs.

**SB 1057** — Includes physical therapists in the definition of health practitioner for the purposes of liens.

**HB 1837** — Senator Loudon was the Senate handler of this medical malpractice insurance bill.

### Co-sponsored by Sen. Loudon:

**SB 845** — Modifies fees and reinstatement processes in the event of corporate administrative dissolution.

**SB 1060** — Modifies provisions regarding the tax contribution designation for the Missouri Military Family Relief Fund.

### Other legislation:

**HB 1485** — Included in this bill is a provision Senator Loudon sponsored allowing adoption tax credits up to \$10,000 for the adoption of special-needs children.

**HB 1008** — Senator Loudon sponsored a provision in this measure providing an appropriation of \$250,000 to hire online detectives to go after Internet sexual predators and child pornographers. This bill provides the start up money for the grant program he incorporated into HB 1698 (*which is detailed at left and on page 3*).

I would like your opinion on issues facing Missouri. It is essential that the citizens of Missouri have effective representation in state government. Therefore, I offer this short questionnaire on events relating to the current legislative session. Thank you in advance for your input.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*(needed for second question)*

## HIGHWAY 40/I-64 CONSTRUCTION

1.) Because of traffic congestion and aging infrastructure, including deteriorating bridges and pavement, MoDOT is going to reconstruct I-64/Highway 40 between I-270 and Kingshighway. It will cost approximately \$535 million and may require replacement or reconstruction of 44 bridges, 15 interchanges and 12 miles of roadway. During construction there will not only be increased congestion on I-64 but also on all highways and roads between I-44 and I-70. Businesses in downtown St. Louis and elsewhere could also be adversely affected if people decide to avoid certain areas due to congestion.

As MoDOT prepares for construction of the new I-64, which of the following options would you want MoDOT to place the greatest emphasis on? Please choose the option that is most important to you.

- \_\_\_ 1. Keep lanes open through the project area as much as possible, even if it means a longer period of inconvenience to the public.
- \_\_\_ 2. Close one or more lanes through the affected area so that the project can be completed faster.
- \_\_\_ 3. Shut down I-64 entirely for as long as six months and close one or more lanes during other periods to achieve the greatest reductions in costs and finish the project as quickly as possible.
- \_\_\_ 4. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## SMOKING ORDINANCE

2.) Last year the City of Ballwin passed an ordinance to ban smoking in public places, including restaurants and bars. Supporters say a ban is needed because smoking, and breathing secondhand smoke, carries many health risks for patrons and workers. Opponents of the ban say it takes away an individual's free choice and is unfair to long-established restaurants that could lose customers to other cities that do not ban smoking. Several restaurants in Ballwin have closed since the ban was passed. Which of the following choices best represents your opinion?

- \_\_\_ 1. I support Ballwin's smoking ban in public places, including restaurants and bars.
- \_\_\_ 2. I would support the ban if restaurants and bars in existence prior to the ban would be exempted under a grandfather clause.
- \_\_\_ 3. I oppose a complete smoking ban. Most restaurants already are required by state law to have at least 70 percent of their seating nonsmoking.
- \_\_\_ 4. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## ONLINE SEXUAL PREDATORS

3.) As the Internet has become more available, children are facing increased risk of being contacted by online sexual predators. This year I was able to obtain \$250,000 in funding to hire more police detectives and computer forensic personnel to go after Internet predators and child pornographers. My goal is to eventually appropriate \$3 million to hire 40 to 50 detectives across the state.

Would you support this program?

- \_\_\_ Yes
- \_\_\_ No

State Senator John Loudon  
201 W. Capitol Ave.  
Room 422  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

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## Gubernatorial Appointments from the 7<sup>th</sup> Senate District

During the 93<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the State of Missouri I have been honored to sponsor the gubernatorial appointments of the following 7<sup>th</sup> Senate District residents:

**Kenneth M. Berry** - Seismic Safety Commission

**Lee Clear** - Tourism Commission

**Debra Cochran** - State Board of Senior Services

**John Diehl** - St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners

**Thomas Forget, M.D.** - Head Injury Advisory Council

**John Gaal** - Missouri Training and Employment Council

**Dixie L. Greer** - State Committee of Dieticians

**William Humpfer** - Re-appointed to the Credit Union Commission

**Timothy E. Imhoff** - Head Injury Advisory Council

**S. Lee Kling** - Missouri Veterans Commission

**Margaret "Peggy" Krokstrom** - Children's Trust Fund Board  
**Promod Kumar** - Board of Architects, Professional Engineers,  
Professional Land Surveyors and Landscape Architects

**Lois A. Linton** - State Committee of Marital and Family  
Therapists

**Sharad P. Parikh, M.D.** - Drug Utilization Review Board

**Daniel Scodary, M.D.** - State Board of Registration for the  
Healing Arts

**Philip T. Treacy** - Real Estate Appraisers Commission

**Dr. John H. Visser** - State Board of Podiatric Medicine

**Merrill D. Wade** - Small Business Regulatory Fairness Board

**David Wasinger** - University of Missouri Board of Curators

**Chaim Zimbalist** - Board of Election Commissioners for St.  
Louis County

### Senator John Loudon

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