

**State Senator  
Wm. H. "Bill"**

# **Stouffer**

**Capitol Report  
2006**

**This Issue:**

**Leading  
Missouri's  
Transportation  
System  
Page 3**

**Serving Our Children  
Page 4**

**Looking Out for  
Missouri Seniors  
Page 5**

**Missouri Senate District 21**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to be your voice in the Missouri Senate. The work has been both challenging and rewarding as the Legislature has advanced measures benefiting rural Missourians. We increased our state's commitment to renewable fuels, protected landowners from eminent domain abuse, and continued to make Missouri a better place to work and live.

I appreciate everyone who called, wrote or e-mailed my office with suggestions for legislation and reforms to Missouri government. Your participation in the legislative process has made this year more effective.



Best Wishes,

Bill Stouffer

### Changes to Missouri's



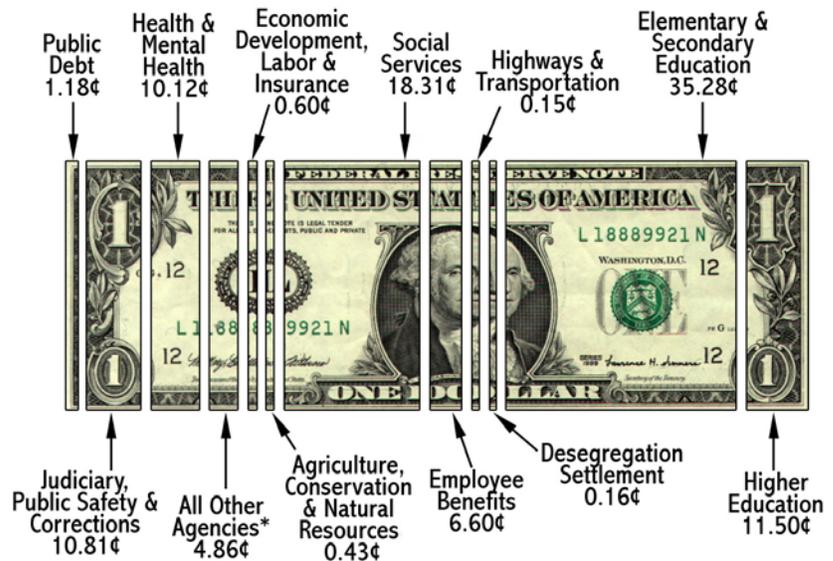
- \$142 million increase for elementary and secondary education
- 4 percent pay raise for state workers
- \$1.1 million increase for additional pay raises for law enforcement officers and nurses
- 2 percent funding increase for universities and community colleges
- Homestead Preservation Tax Credit: \$2.96 million, fully funded
- Ethanol subsidy increase of \$625,000: \$8.6 million total funding; Biodiesel subsidies total \$5.25 million
- Internet Sex Crimes Task Forces Grants: \$250,000
- Global Positioning monitoring for selected sex offenders: \$248,500
- Compensation payments to wrongly convicted inmates: \$109,500
- Healthcare Technology Fund: \$25 million
- Immunization Registry and Enhanced Case Management system from the Healthcare Technology Fund: \$3.1 million
- Additional coverage for wheelchair batteries and eyeglasses: \$6.7 million
- Rate Increase for Children's Residential Treatment services: \$5.8 million

## Distribution of Each General Revenue Tax Dollar

FY 2007 Missouri Operating Appropriations

General Revenue: \$7.72 billion

Distribution of Each Tax Dollar  
FY 2007 Missouri Operating Appropriations  
General Revenue: \$7.732 Billion



\* Revenue, Office of Administration, Elected Officials, General Assembly, Leasing  
Source: Senate Appropriations

## Stouffer Focuses on Transportation

Lawmakers this year approved legislation strengthening Move Over laws, work-zone safety, school bus zones and booster seat requirements.

Senate Bill 872 stiffens penalties against motorists who fail to move over when approached by an emergency vehicle or when approaching a stationary emergency vehicle. The measure increases the penalty from a Class B to a Class A misdemeanor for such offenses. If a motorist fails to move over or slow down and causes an injury to emergency personnel, the motorist can be charged with assault in the second degree. If the injury results in death, the motorist can be charged with involuntary manslaughter.

SB 872 also increases fines for various offenses that occur within highway work or construction zones. In cases when a construction worker is injured, a \$5,000 fine is imposed and 12 points are assessed to your license. If the worker is killed, a fine of up to \$10,000 is imposed and 12 points are assessed.

SB 872 also requires children up to age 8 to be seated in child booster seats while in automobiles. The legislation imposes various child-restraint requirements specific to four different height and weight classifications.

In addition, the legislation has several provisions to keep children safe. If motorists fail to yield for a school bus loading or unloading children, and the offense results in an injury, motorists can be charged with a Class D felony. If the accident results in death, they can be charged with a Class C felony.

More than 100 organizations have partnered with MoDOT for a Blueprint for Safer Roadways to decrease highway deaths in Missouri to less than 1,000 per year. In 2005, 1,257 people were killed on Missouri's roads, and more than 200 of those were under the age of 21. We hope that SB 872 will help lower these numbers.

For more safety tips, visit the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety Web site at [www.savemolives.com](http://www.savemolives.com).



*Senate Transportation Chair Sen. Stouffer consults with staff member Heidi Osner (Lafayette County) during a hearing.*

## Ethanol: Fueling Energy Independence

Lawmakers this year passed legislation that will offer a number of benefits to Missouri consumers and farm families. House Bill 1270 requires most gasoline sold in Missouri to contain at least a 10 percent ethanol blend. The renewable-fuel standard will mean relief at the pump for Missouri motorists, less dependence on foreign oil, cleaner burning gasoline and new markets for Missouri farmers.

HB 1270 implements the ethanol standard on Jan. 1, 2008. Ethanol is a clean-burning, renewable product made from fermented agricultural products, such as corn. All motor vehicles manufactured since the 1970s can run on a 10 percent ethanol blend. To ensure HB 1270 does not cost taxpayers more at the pump, any time the price of ethanol is higher than the cost of gasoline, the 10 percent ethanol standard will be suspended.

This new ethanol standard will provide innumerable



benefits for Missourians and the environment. Ethanol is cheaper than unleaded gasoline, so the 10 percent standard should provide some relief to Missouri drivers. Meanwhile, by fueling our vehicles with ethanol produced from American corn and refined right here in Missouri's ethanol plants, we can reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy.

Plus, the new demand for ethanol will be a boon for Missouri farmers. By opening new markets for Missouri's hardworking farm families, the ethanol standard will add value to Missouri's corn harvest.

Finally, the ethanol blend will make for cleaner-burning gasoline, which means our automobile emissions will be less harmful

to the world around us.

For all of these reasons, HB 1270 is a slam dunk for the state of Missouri.

# Serving Missouri Children

## *Keeping our Kids Safe*

Lawmakers this year approved legislation cracking down on sexual predators in Missouri. Under House Bill 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 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.

Further, lawmakers approved \$250,000 to hire more cyber detectives across Missouri to go after Internet predators before they harm our children.

HB 1698 also changes some standards of who is included on the statewide sex offender registry. Under the bill, some new offenses are included in the registry, while various nonsexual crimes no longer require offenders to be registered. Child molesters and rapists are the ones who need to be identified online, not individuals who have slipped through the cracks of the legal system.

The Legislature has met the issue of sex offenders head-on and has passed a bill that dramatically increases penalties for these horrific crimes in Missouri.



*Sen. Stouffer meets in the Senate Chamber with students from Dogwood Elementary School of Kearney.*

## *Foundation Formula: Providing for Missouri Schools*

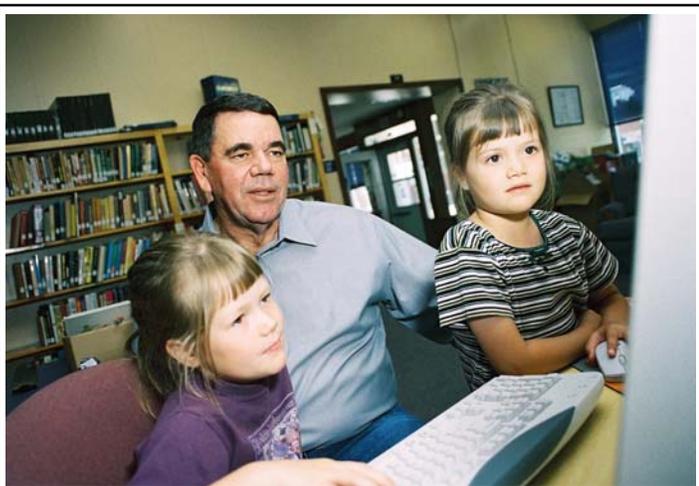
A year after the General Assembly approved the most comprehensive school funding formula in Missouri history, lawmakers are fully funding the initiative in 2006.

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 \$830 million annual funding increase to Missouri schools.

Missouri's foundation formula determines the minimum per-student dollar amount needed to provide an adequate education, a figure devised by studying the best-performing districts in the state. The formula also guarantees that no Missouri district will see a reduction in funding.

The General Assembly made a commitment to Missouri students in 2005, and it has followed up on that pledge. Lawmakers also have mapped out K-12 funding increases for years to come.



*Sen. Stouffer meets with Missouri students at a community library in the 21st Senate District.*

## Closing the Door on Eminent Domain Abuse

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. Although eminent domain is sometimes necessary for legitimate purposes, such as acquiring right-of-way for highways or locating public utilities, there are abuses that need to be addressed.

Missouri lawmakers this year passed legislation modifying state laws on eminent domain.



House Bill 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. These provisions offer needed protections to Missouri property owners.

## Stouffer Champions Senior Legislation

Residential care facilities, such as Bristol Manor, allow seniors the opportunity to live with dignity and pride in an arrangement appropriate to their needs. One of my most important pieces of legislation this year, Senate Bill 616, brings clarity to the market by providing consumers with a clear knowledge of exactly what type of services newly defined "assisted-living facilities" provide. The legislation also requires these facilities to meet several requirements contained in the bill before they can be approved by the state. These safety requirements help maintain better facilities for Missouri seniors.

Too often we limit the living options for seniors. Currently, if a resident of this type of facility takes out his or her hearing aids to sleep, the facility is in violation of state statutes and the resident is removed to either live at home or in a skilled-care nursing facility. Neither option fits the needs of the resident.

If state regulators wake a resident, the resident has a certain period of time to dress and exit the building without assistance from staff. Seniors from throughout the state have been moved from facilities they call home because of rules such as these.

Although the intentions of the current law are admirable, they do not fit the needs of seniors in the first stages of dementia. In addition, no clarity in the market exists to even define the purpose and function of these facilities.

Along with the AARP and other senior-advocacy groups, I believe that a family, a facility and a patient should have the right to decide what is appropriate for the patient's needs.

Under SB 616, assisted-living facilities cannot admit individuals who require significant care or are a danger to others. They must have a staff large enough and skilled enough to provide 24-hour care. SB 616 also works to protect residents requiring assisted-living facilities to develop written plans

for what to do in case of emergency.

Finally, this measure provides accountability to each resident. Under the legislation, facilities are required to periodically screen residents and develop individualized service plans, which will then be reviewed by residents or their legal representatives.

Because this legislation saw such strong support from senior-advocacy groups such as the Alzheimer's Association and AARP, lawmakers quickly approved the measure.



*Sen. Stouffer discusses medical issues with Missouri seniors.*

# A Day at the Capitol



**Tours:** The Capitol receives thousands of visitors each year. Many school groups, organizations, churches, scouting groups, and clubs such as FFA and 4-H come to the Capitol to learn about the Missouri Legislature and issues facing lawmakers.

Those who would like to visit the state Capitol are encouraged to contact Sen. Stouffer's office to schedule a tour. This could include visiting the Senate and House chambers, the House Lounge featuring the famous Thomas Hart Benton murals, the "whispering gallery" above the halls of the Capitol, and a hike to the top of the Capitol dome overlooking Jefferson City. Visits to other sites in Jefferson City, including the Governor's Mansion, Highway Patrol and Runge Nature Center, can also be arranged.

Sen. Stouffer also has an **online tour planner** at [www.senate.mo.gov/stouffer](http://www.senate.mo.gov/stouffer) that allows potential visitors to view tour opportunities inside and outside the Capitol building. Staffers then process all requests and schedule a day convenient for visitors.

**Resolutions:** Each week Sen. Stouffer honors constituents with courtesy resolutions for their accomplishments, including birthdays and anniversaries. Anyone interested in honoring someone special with a resolution can call toll free at (866) 768-3987 or click the "Courtesy Resolution" link on Sen. Stouffer's Web site: [www.senate.mo.gov/stouffer](http://www.senate.mo.gov/stouffer).

**Casework:** Sen. Stouffer's office can act as a liaison between the citizens of Missouri and state government.

It is important to know that neither Sen. Stouffer nor his staff can approve a claim or compel any agency to act in your favor. Those types of decisions must be made by the state agency involved and are based on the facts of the case. However, Sen. Stouffer is glad to obtain answers to your questions, make the appropriate officials aware of your concerns, and cut through "red tape" you might be experiencing. This may include arranging meetings, writing letters of recommendation or simply inquiring into your case.

## Student Internships

Students have the opportunity to be a part of state government through the Missouri Internship Program. Each year, interns from the 21<sup>st</sup> Senate District are selected to serve, and nominations are always welcome.

In 2006, Sen. Stouffer was joined by the following members of the 21st Senate District: Shana Atkinson, **Glasgow**; Lindsay Grotjan, **Keytesville**; Sarah Jackson, **New Cambria**; Michael Maxwell, **Excelsior Springs**; Jessica McCormack, **Higginsville**; and Whitney Miller, Samantha Stanley, Madelynn Thomas and Clayton Thompson, all of **Richmond**. Previous interns included Nathan White, **Norborne**, and Kyle Fowler, **Richmond**.

Anyone interested in applying can fill out an application at [www.senate.mo.gov/stouffer/intern](http://www.senate.mo.gov/stouffer/intern). Prospective interns are also welcome to come by Sen. Stouffer's Jefferson City office, Room 332 of the State Capitol, and visit.



*Sen. Stouffer is pictured here with Excelsior Springs native Michael Maxwell, one of the many fine interns serving during the 2006 session.*

## By The Numbers...

(Since January 2005)

**160,000**

The approximate number of constituents in the 21<sup>st</sup> Senate District.

**7,252**

Constituents, who have called, e-mailed, written, visited or received correspondence from our office.

**3,930**

Photos from the newspaper clipped and sent.

**1,504**

Courtesy resolutions have been dispatched.

**113**

People have been helped with problems in different state departments.

**74**

School groups have visited.

**53**

Grants and tax credits have been awarded, including more than \$9,833,696 in authorized state funding.



*Sen. Stouffer shares a moment with U.S. Representative Ike Skelton at a public appearance in the district. Photo by Cynthia Hiles, Bates City.*

# Sen. Stouffer's LEGISLATION

■ Thanks to the help of AARP of Missouri, consumers will face less confusion when shopping for senior residential care. This legislation also allows seniors to have more opportunities to live in assisted-living facilities rather than their own home or a skilled-care facility. **(Passed as SB 616)**

■ Missouri's children will be assisted by an income tax credit for donations made to foster homes, child-placement agencies and residential-care facilities. This will help agencies such as Baptist Children's Homes and Butterfield Youth Services leverage private dollars to help take care of Missouri's children. **(Passed as SB 614)**

■ The City of Corder will now be allowed to sell property purchased from a closed school district, reducing the city's costs in maintaining an aging structure they were previously not allowed to sell under state statutes. **(Passed as SB 751)**

■ Transportation improvements will be made through the **Missouri Public-Private Partnerships Transportation Act**, allowing the construction of a billion-dollar bridge in St. Louis with no costs to MoDOT. **(Passed as HB 1380)**

■ Animal research and production facilities would have been better protected from intruders who may knowingly or unknowingly harm animals and our food supply under this act. **(SB 615)**

■ Other legislation developed by Sen. Stouffer, including eleven bills passed in original form or as an amendment by the state Legislature can be viewed at [www.senate.mo.gov/stouffer](http://www.senate.mo.gov/stouffer).

## Services

- Schedule Capitol tours through our office.
- Medicaid coverage inquiries will continue to be answered.
- If you have an anniversary, birthday, Eagle Scout, or any other special event please let us know ahead of time so we can get a Senate resolution to you for that day.
- Sign up for an e-newsletter e-mailed to you weekly.

## Contact

Senator Bill Stouffer  
201 W. Capitol Ave.  
Rm. 332  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

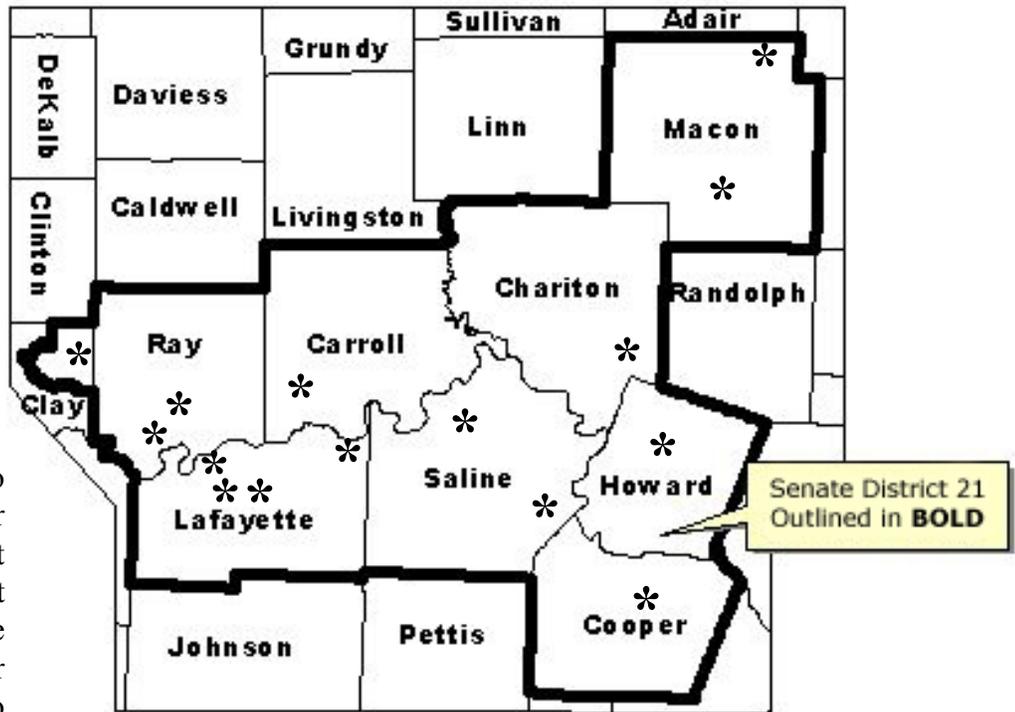
Phone: 573-751-1507  
Fax: 573-751-9764  
Toll Free: 866-768-3987  
E-mail: [bstouffer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:bstouffer@senate.mo.gov)

On the Web: [www.senate.mo.gov/stouffer](http://www.senate.mo.gov/stouffer)

## *Breakdown of 2006 Grants in the 21st District*

Due to the hard work of local leaders, communities throughout the 21st District received vital funding from state and federal sources. These grants and tax credits go toward improving the lives of citizens in rural Missouri.

Below is an outline of funding received by communities within the 21st District.



- **Armstrong:** \$22,650 grant to improve drinking water conditions for residents. Grant money will be used to connect Armstrong to the Clarence Cannon Wholesale Water Commission for access to drinking water.
- **Arrow Rock:** \$8,104 matching grant to conduct a 25-acre archeological survey of privately owned land within its National Historic Landmark boundaries.
- **Camden:** Infrastructure-improvement grant approved.
- **Excelsior Springs:** A grant issued through a Federal Highway Administration program will go for parks and trails projects.
- **Higginsville:** \$147,740 in tax credits to go toward the Higginsville Senior Center.
- **La Plata:** Community Development Block Grant funds will be used to tear down

dilapidated buildings to improve the look and opportunities of vacant lots.

- **Macon:** \$156,600 in Community Development Block Grant funding for the Macon Area Vocational Technical School.
- **Norborne:** Community Development Block Grant funding will be used to improve area infrastructure.
- **Odessa:** \$500,000 for sewer improvements.
- **Pilot Grove:** \$165,329 grant for preserving affordable housing in the area; \$118,238 grant for senior-housing rehabilitation.

- **Richmond:** More than \$1.4 million in assistance from both state and federal sources for downtown revitalization projects.
- **Salisbury:** A grant issued through a Federal Highway Administration program will go for parks and trails projects.
- **Slater:** \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant for storm-water improvements.
- **Waverly:** \$500,000 grant for water-system improvements.
- **Wellington:** \$171,903 in tax credits for the St. Luke Community Christian Center.