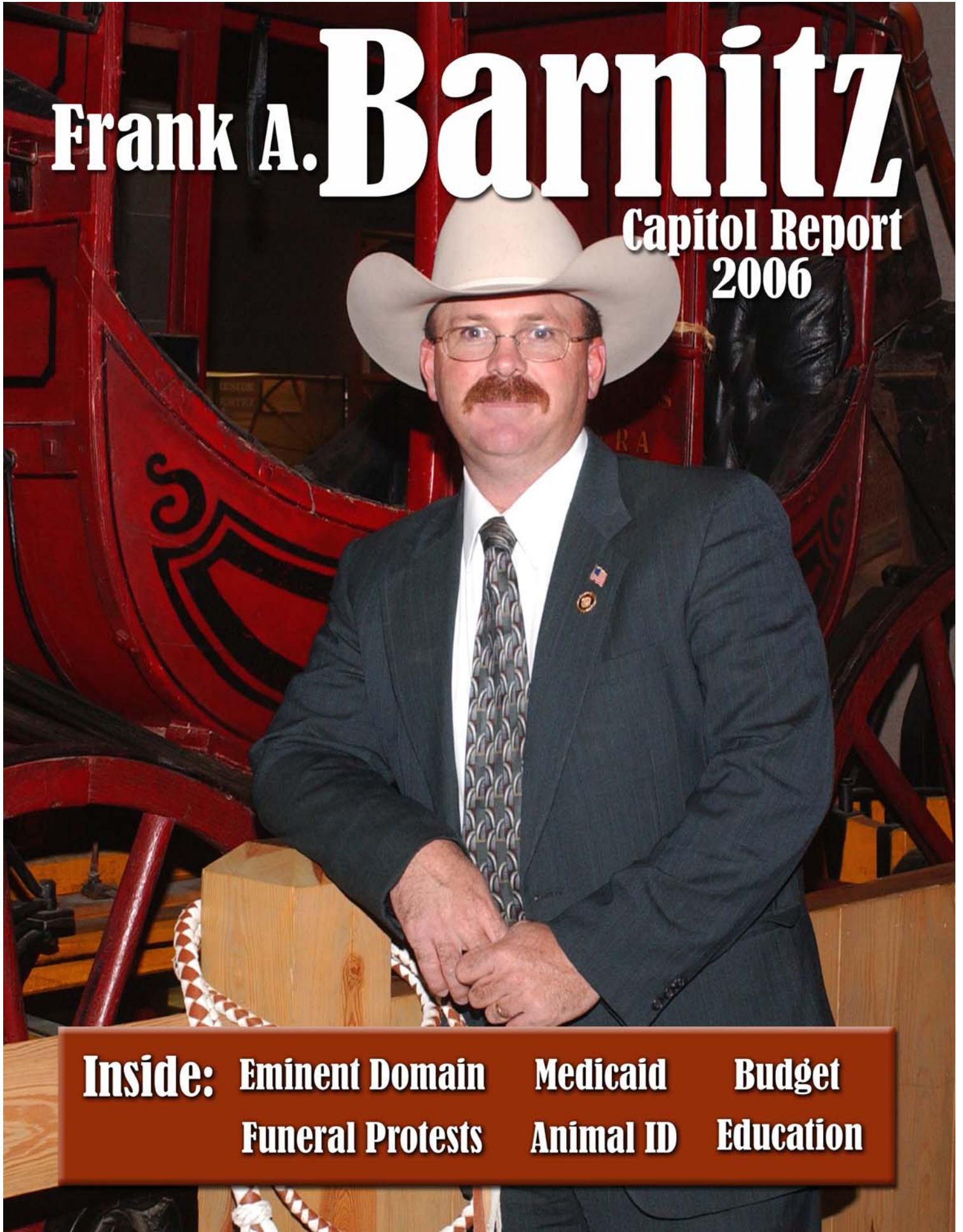


Frank A. Barnitz

Capitol Report
2006



Inside: Eminent Domain

Medicaid

Budget

Funeral Protests

Animal ID

Education

Dear Friends,

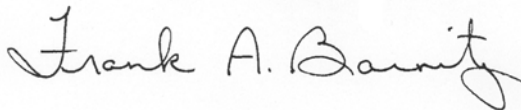
The 2006 legislative session had the usual peaks and valleys, and I always focused on what was best for my constituents and not on political posturing. This annual report allows me to offer you a summary of our activities as a supplement to my weekly columns and radio addresses, and of course, my pledge to you that no phone call or signed letter goes unanswered.

Serving as your voice in the Missouri Senate is a tremendous honor, an awesome responsibility, and a job I take very seriously. Within these pages, you will find factual information on such diverse issues as our attempts to restore Medicaid cuts (not nearly as successful as I had hoped), protect property owners' rights against eminent domain, continue the battle to adequately fund education, and protect the grieving families of our lost soldiers from disgusting demonstrations by disrespectful fanatics.

You will also notice that this report includes a survey on page 7. I encourage everyone to fill out this survey and return it to me so I can better understand your opinions on key issues and serve you in the state Legislature. This survey will also be available on my Senate Web site, at www.senate.mo.gov/barnitz. Please do not hesitate to make your opinions known to your elected representatives.

I hope you enjoy this publication and find the information useful. It is my great pleasure to serve you, and my door is always open to you. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Sen. Frank A. Barnitz
District 16
Missouri Senate



Contact Senator Frank Barnitz

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Missouri Education Report, 2006

Foundation Formula: Providing for Missouri Schools

Lawmakers are fully funding Missouri's school funding formula in 2006.

The K-12 foundation formula this year 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. The figure has been devised by studying the best-performing districts in Missouri.

The budget for Fiscal Year 2007 also includes funding for the following programs:

- First Steps: \$1.6 million increase
- Parents as Teachers: \$1 million increase
- Virtual Schools funded with \$125,000

Other programs with increased funding:

- A+ Program (\$1.8 million)
- School food programs (\$17.6 million)
- Special Education (\$5 million)



Funding Higher Ed



The Missouri Legislature in 2006 was able to implement the largest funding increase for higher education in several years. Under the Fiscal Year 2007 budget, Missouri colleges and universities received a 2 percent funding increase. That's an additional \$14.4 million for public universities and Linn State Technical College and \$2.67 million for public community colleges.

The Missouri College Guarantee Scholarship Program received a funding increase of \$770,582. The program provides needs-based grants and scholarships to Missouri students.

Missouri's Gallagher Grant Program received an increase of \$1.53 million. The Access Missouri Scholarship Program, which provides \$1,000 one-time college scholarships for Missouri students, received \$10 million.

Other programs with increased funding include:

- MOREnet (\$101,531)
- State Historical Society (\$189,220)
- Missouri Rehabilitation Center (\$285,000)



Sen. Barnitz on March 2 welcomed to the Capitol more than 100 fourth-grade students from Salem Upper Elementary School.

Studying the Cost of Education

In June, Sen. Barnitz was appointed to a legislative committee charged with examining the cost of higher education.

The Senate Interim Committee on the Cost of a College Education will study the state's role in funding a college education for students, consider alternative funding structures and examine the mechanism by which tuition rates are set at Missouri institutions of higher learning.

Sen. Barnitz vows to study ways to make higher education more available to Missouri families.

Restricting Funeral Protests: Respecting Our Fallen Heroes

The need for passing laws to prevent people from acting like heathens at the funerals of soldiers killed in the line of duty may seem ridiculous, but the Legislature was forced to do just that this year.

“Taunting and berating family members of our fallen heroes has become commonplace, and we had to take steps to put a halt to it,” Sen. Barnitz said. “Why these vicious fanatics would choose a time of mourning to spread their message of hatred and violence is beyond me. I believe they have been fortunate not to have been assaulted themselves for their actions.”

The Legislature attacked this problem in a bipartisan fashion after a protest at the funeral of Edward Lee



Sen. Barnitz speaks on the floor of the Missouri Senate.

Myers, a St. Joseph resident and specialist with the U.S. Army. Spc. Myers was killed by a car bomb on July 27, 2005, in Samarra, Iraq. He was just 21 years old.

“Although the Constitutional free-speech rights of all Americans must be respected, no family should ever have to lose a loved one and then endure the situation experienced by the Myers family,” Sen Barnitz said.

SB 578 prohibits individuals from protesting at funerals in Missouri within one hour prior to the beginning of any funeral service until one hour after the service has concluded. This measure helps protect military families. American soldiers and their families have earned this basic respect.

Property Rights: Upholding American Core Values

Protecting citizens’ property rights is serious business to Sen. Frank Barnitz.

“As a farmer and cattleman, I feed and clothe my family from what I manage to earn from my land,” the Lake Spring lawmaker said. “When any judge tries to make it easier for someone else to take my land, I am not going to wait for them to do it.”

Sen. Barnitz this year joined a bipartisan effort to protect Missouri property owners from potential loss after a Supreme Court decision appeared to make it easier for governments to take land.

In Kelo v. City of New London (Conn.), 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. For Sen. Barnitz, that spelled abuse of property rights. Fortunately, the court held that individual states could limit eminent domain, and that is what the Missouri Legislature did.



HB 1944 prohibits the use of eminent domain solely for economic development, bars farmland from being considered “blighted” and requires factors such as fair market value and heritage value to be considered when deciding fair compensation for property taken via eminent domain. Under those provisions, property owners subject to eminent domain are required to receive 25 percent more than the home’s

value. When the property has been in the same extended family for more than 50 years, the compensation climbs to 50 percent more than fair value.

“I could not come home to my Senate district if I hadn’t done everything I could to protect the property rights of Missourians,” Sen. Barnitz said. “This is a rural district, and our land is much more than just a place to live. For many of us, it is our livelihoods, and for all of us, it is part of our souls.”

Medicaid: Restoring Health-Care Benefits

Although Missouri's Medicaid program saw significant cutbacks in 2005, Sen. Barnitz and his legislative colleagues have been working overtime to restore health-care benefits to those in need. Lawmakers in 2006 approved coverage for services made subject to appropriations in 2005.

Medicaid+ Facts

Funding Medicaid in 2006

- Medicaid spending: \$200 million funding increase in 2007 fiscal year
- Medicaid Pharmacy:
 - Growth in Funding: \$79.9 million
 - Coverage for Medicare Part D: \$44.2 million
- Coverage for wheelchair batteries and eyeglasses: \$6.7 million
- Healthcare Technology Fund: \$25 million
- Home-delivered-meal programs: \$1 million
- Pay increase for in-home providers: \$26.96 million

Other Issues

Lawmakers worked hard this year to pass legislation restoring funding to Missouri's Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD) program, which gives Missourians receiving disability benefits the opportunity to achieve long-term employment.

Cracking down on Medicaid provider fraud was also a top priority among lawmakers. The Senate advanced legislation enhancing penalties against health-care providers who commit Medicaid fraud and offering financial incentives to whistleblowers.

In spite of the hard work put forth by lawmakers, neither bill passed the Legislature by session's end.

Although the Legislature was unable to pass this legislation during session, lawmakers are vowing to revive these important bills in the coming session.

Getting Connected: Missouri Government Online



Governor: www.gov.mo.gov
Lt. Governor: www.ltgov.mo.gov
Secretary of State: www.sos.mo.gov
Attorney General: www.ago.mo.gov
Auditor: www.auditor.mo.gov
Treasurer: www.treasurer.missouri.gov

Missouri Senate: www.senate.mo.gov
Missouri House: www.house.mo.gov

Judiciary: www.courts.mo.gov

Executive Departments:

Administration: www.oa.mo.gov
Agriculture: www.mda.mo.gov
Conservation: www.mdc.mo.gov
Corrections: www.doc.mo.gov

Economic Development:
www.ded.mo.gov

K-12 Education: www.dese.mo.gov

Health and Senior Services:
www.dhss.mo.gov

Higher Education: www.dhe.mo.gov
Insurance, Financial Institutions & Professional Registration:
www.difp.mo.gov

Labor and Industrial Relations:
www.dolir.missouri.gov

Mental Health: www.dmh.missouri.gov

Natural Resources: www.dnr.mo.gov

Public Safety: www.dps.mo.gov

Revenue: www.dor.mo.gov

Social Services: www.dss.mo.gov

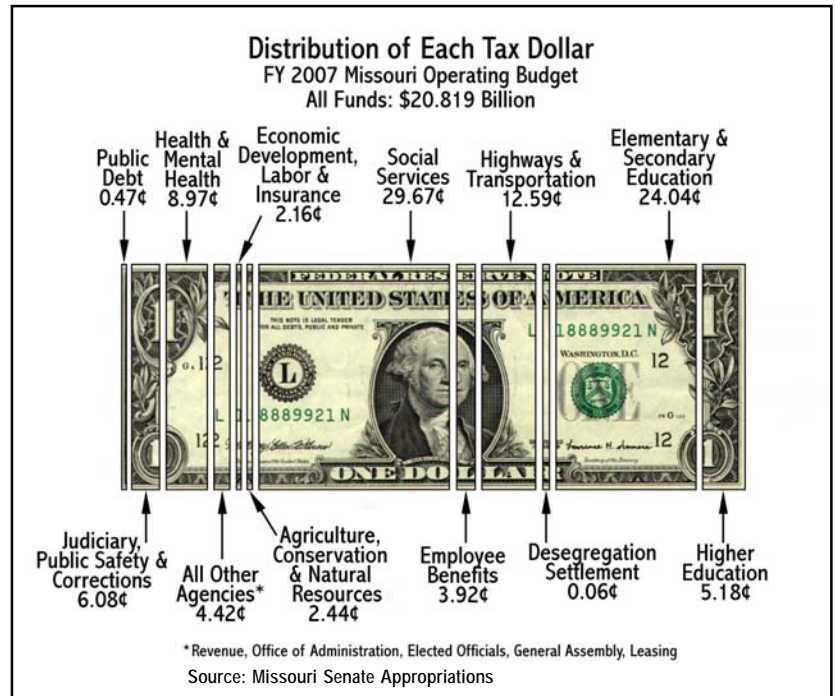
Transportation: www.modot.mo.gov

The Budget: Staying Accountable to Taxpayers

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

The 2007 Fiscal Year Budget allots:

- A \$142 million funding increase for K-12 education.
- A 2 percent increase for state public colleges and universities.
- A \$400 million increase for construction and maintenance of roads and bridges.
- \$6.2 billion for the Department of Social Services, a 4 percent increase over last year.
- A \$200 million increase for Medicaid.
- A 4 percent pay raise for state employees, except elected officials.



Keeping Animal Identification Voluntary

While Sen. Frank Barnitz appreciates the many federal programs that assist Missouri farmers, he prefers that those programs be voluntary. Such was the case this year when he took a leading role to try to keep the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) voluntary.

“I just feel that Missouri farmers need to have the final say on which programs they participate in,” Sen. Barnitz said. “That is why I co-sponsored



Sen. Barnitz and constituents meet at the Capitol.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 31 to urge the federal government not to make the NAIS mandatory. It is not

cost onto producers; and the program excessively increases government authority over rural Missourians.

the government’s responsibility to force Americans into programs in which they don’t want to be involved.”

Sen. Barnitz is concerned that too many species of animals that have nothing to do with food supply would be required to be identified; directions for producers as to how to comply with recording movement are unclear; there has been no funding for the mandate, which effectively puts the burden of

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 _____ E-mail Address: _____

EMINENT DOMAIN

1.) In 2006, the Legislature reformed eminent domain laws. The new law prohibits the use of eminent domain solely for economic development, bars farmland from being considered "blighted," and requires factors such as fair market value and heritage value to be considered when deciding fair compensation for property taken via eminent domain. These provisions will provide needed protections against the abuse of property rights. Please choose which idea most closely reflects your view.

_____ These reforms protect the rights of property owners.

_____ Further reforms are needed.

_____ Other: _____

ONLINE SEXUAL PREDATORS

2.) As the Internet becomes more available, children are facing an increased risk of being contacted by online sexual predators. This year, lawmakers were able to obtain \$250,000 in funding to hire more police detectives and computer forensic personnel to go after Internet predators and child pornographers. Our goal is to eventually appropriate \$3 million to hire 40 to 50 detectives across the state. Would you support this program?

_____ Yes

_____ No

ANIMAL ID

3.) Federal officials have reserved the right to mandate the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) if voluntary participation rates are not high enough. The goal of the program is to utilize electronic animal-identification devices to trace within 48 hours the movement of animals from one facility to another, especially sick or diseased animals that might pose wider animal-health problems. However, opponents believe the program is an invasion of constitutional privacy rights and will not be feasible for family farmers and ranchers. Please check the item closest to your opinion:

_____ I oppose any type of identification for any animal.

_____ I believe the animal identification program should remain voluntary.

_____ I am in favor of mandatory animal identification.

_____ Other: _____

MINIMUM WAGE

4.) In November, Missouri voters will have the chance to approve or reject increasing the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$6.50 an hour, or to the level of the federal minimum wage, whichever higher. The proposal would also annually adjust the rate for inflation. Please check the item closest to your opinion:

_____ I support an increase in the minimum wage.

_____ I oppose an increase in the minimum wage.

State Senator Frank Barnitz
201 W. Capitol Ave.
Room 425
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Place
Stamp
Here

Please be sure to fold the survey in thirds, so that only the outgoing address is visible.

Gubernatorial Appointments from the 16th Senate District

In 2006, Sen. Barnitz has had the opportunity to sponsor the gubernatorial appointments of the following 16th Senate District residents:

Betty Council, Vienna, Head Injury Advisory Council
Robert Davis, Montgomery City, Corrections Officer Certification Commission
James M. DiPardo, St. James, Land Reclamation Commission
Vincent D. Hillyer, St. James, Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board
Leon Kreisler, Salem, State Soil and Water District Commission
Jonathan "David" Rogers, Rolla, Seismic Safety Commission
Don Warner, Rolla, Board of Geologist Registration



Sen. Barnitz and Betty Council of Vienna, who was appointed to the Head Injury Advisory Council.

Senator Frank Barnitz

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