



2006 Legislative Report - District 14

Dear Friends,

The 2006 legislative session was one of challenges and opportunities. The improving revenue picture enabled my legislative colleagues and me to advance measures to fund the K-12 foundation formula and increase funding to public colleges and universities.

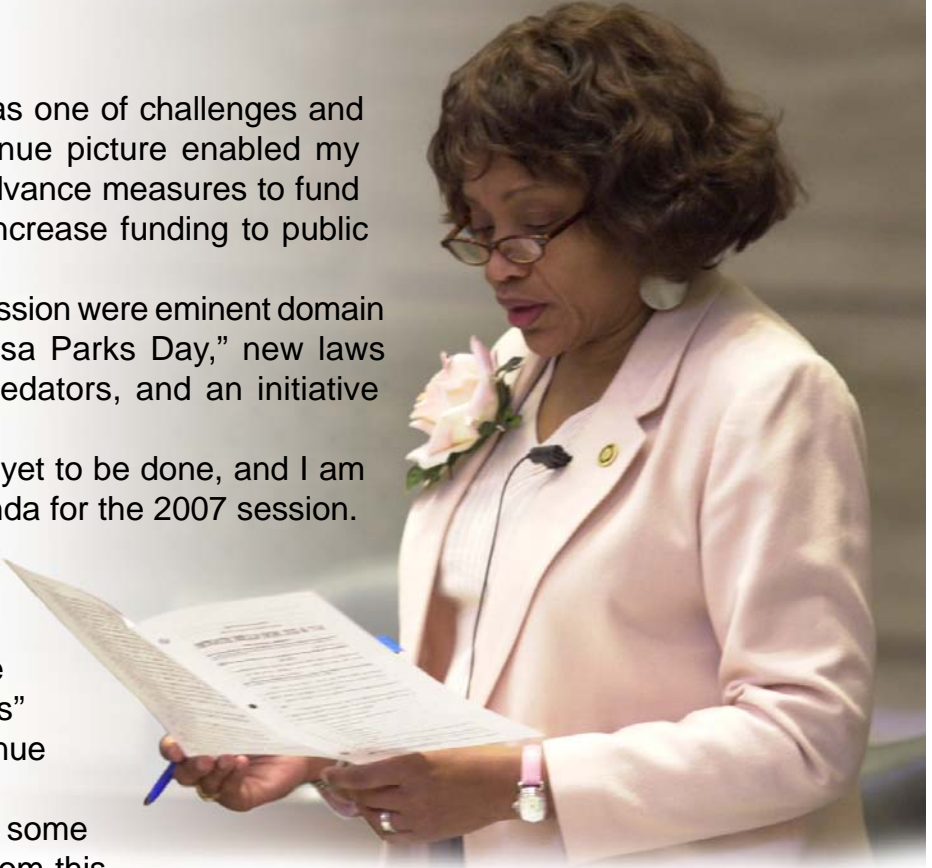
Also passed during this year's session were eminent domain reforms, the establishment of "Rosa Parks Day," new laws protecting children from sexual predators, and an initiative furthering ethanol use in Missouri.

To be sure, there is much work yet to be done, and I am already forming my legislative agenda for the 2007 session. Insurance coverage for the morbidly obese, promoting universal healthcare, long-term care insurance, and removing the expiration date of the "First Steps" program are all initiatives I will continue to work on.

The following pages expand on some of the highlights and happenings from this year's efforts. Please don't hesitate to call me on any of the issues I've outlined here, or on any legislative matter of interest to you. You'll find my contact information below and on page 8.

While our work as legislators in Jefferson City is largely done for 2006, my service to you in the 14th District continues throughout the year. It is my pleasure and privilege to represent your interests in the Missouri Senate.

Sincerely,



State Senator Rita Heard Days

Room 427, 201 W. Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101

(573) 751-4106 - www.senate.mo.gov/days

Legislative Measures Supported by Sen. Days in 2006

Bills Sponsored by Sen. Days

SB 596 - Authorizes a court to appoint a standby guardian for a minor

SB 597 - Mandates health insurance coverage for morbid obesity

SB 598 - Modifies law regarding the use of credit information by insurance companies

SB 660 - Requires state employees to contribute a percentage of income toward their health insurance

SB 859 - Creates an advance voting system for elections

SB 975 - Amends laws relating to unsecured loans of \$500 or less

SB 1004 - Removes the special education statute from the sunset provision of the First Steps Program

SB 1046 - Creates the "Emancipation Day Commission"

SB 1053 - Enacts a long-term care public-private partnership program

SB 1167 - Bars sitting senators and representatives from contracting with one another for fund-raising and consulting for campaigns

SCR 28 - Designates a state office building in Jefferson City as the "George Washington Carver State Office Building"

SCR 32 - Urges Congress to include an allocation in the federal budget for a military transport plan program at Boeing St. Louis

Bills Co-sponsored by Sen. Days

SB 658 - Prohibits any governmental entity from interfering with the right to obtain or use contraceptives

SB 674 - Defines "bullying" and prohibits school employees, volunteers, or students from bullying a student while on school property

SB 675 - Modifies the state's No-Call List to include wireless phone numbers and fax numbers

SB 700 - Removes references to male and female employees and requires equal pay for the same work regardless of gender

SB 706 - Permits both public and private entities to conduct research utilizing embryonic and adult stem cells

SB 716 - Prohibits discrimination based upon a person's sexual orientation

SB 762 - Allows businesses to voluntarily sign up for the newly created no-mail list kept and maintained by the Secretary of State's Office.

SB 777 - Establishes the "Missouri Universal Health Assurance Program"

SB 796 - Provides for two-thirds income disregard for Medical Assistance for Families recipients

SB 810 - Repeals the June 30, 2008, Medicaid sunset provision

SB 811 - Enacts various changes with respect to the issue of medical malpractice insurance

SB 829 - Repeals a portion of the law which allows certain utilities to apply for alternate rate schedules

SB 843 - Establishes requirements for renewable energy resources

SB 844 - Authorizes individuals to bring civil actions alleging Medicaid fraud

SB 846 - Sets the maximum penalty for violating any Public Service Commission order relating to federal natural gas safety standards

SB 853 - Provides for mandatory minimum punishment for securities fraud crimes against the elderly or disabled

SB 875 - Modifies requirements for corporate filings

SB 943 - Establishes the "Prevention First Act"

SB 944 - Requires large employers to dedicate a percentage of profits for health care costs

SB 952 - Designates the Table Rock Lake bridge on Highway 39 in Barry County near Shell Knob as the "State Senator Larry Gene Taylor Memorial Bridge"

SB 981 - Allows a highway patrol member to accept other employment under a general order issued by the Superintendent

SB 1007 - Bars lending institutions from using unsolicited negotiable instruments as extensions of credit to consumers

SB 1021 - Modifies laws of the Missouri Health Insurance Pool

SB 1077 - Creates new penalties for signing false names on petitions

SB 1085 - Modifies provisions on students self-administering medication

SB 1098 - Creates a tax credit for service as a poll worker

SB 1164 - Provides that teacher training programs shall include instruction in main streaming children with special needs as well as instruction regarding the IEP process

SB 1192 - Relates to the duty of pharmacies to fill prescriptions

SB 1227 - Modifies the law relating to the establishment of paternity

House Bills Managed by Sen. Days

HB 1256 - Designates February 4th as the annual "Rosa Parks Day"

HB 1491 - Requires the Family Support Division to urge Medicaid applicants to use federal veterans' benefits

HB 1732 - Broadens and alters the criteria for permissible self-administered medications in public schools

HCR 25 - Urges the United States Congress to include in the Federal Defense Budget an allocation for the United States Air Force C-17 Globemaster III military transport plane program at Boeing St. Louis

Protecting Private Property Rights

Reining in Government Condemnation Powers

Lawmakers this year passed legislation (House Bill 1944) to help protect homeowners, farmers and small businesses from local governments abusing the power of eminent domain.

This measure was needed because of a 2005 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that governments can legally seize the homes of private citizens and give the condemned land to private developers. As soon as the Supreme Court's *Kelo v. City of New London* decision was handed down, Missouri officials made it a top priority to draft and implement legislation offering Missourians protections against eminent domain abuse.

The safeguards approved by the Missouri Legislature help restore eminent domain to its proper place and protect the private property rights of homeowners by tightening requirements for when eminent domain can be used. The measure also increases the ability of people whose property is taken by eminent domain to receive fair and just compensation for what their property is worth.



The bill reining in eminent domain:

- **States** that condemning authorities cannot acquire private property through the use of eminent domain for solely economic development purposes.
- **Provides** those whose land is taken an extra 25 percent over the fair market value of their property.
- **Gives** those whose land is taken an extra 50 percent over fair market value if a family is required to give up property they have owned for more than 50 years.
- **Establishes** the Office of Ombudsman to assist citizens seeking information regarding the eminent domain process.



“Nothing is to prevent the state from replacing any Motel 6 with a Ritz-Carlton, any home with a shopping mall, or any farm with a factory.”

— Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, dissenting from the *Kelo* decision

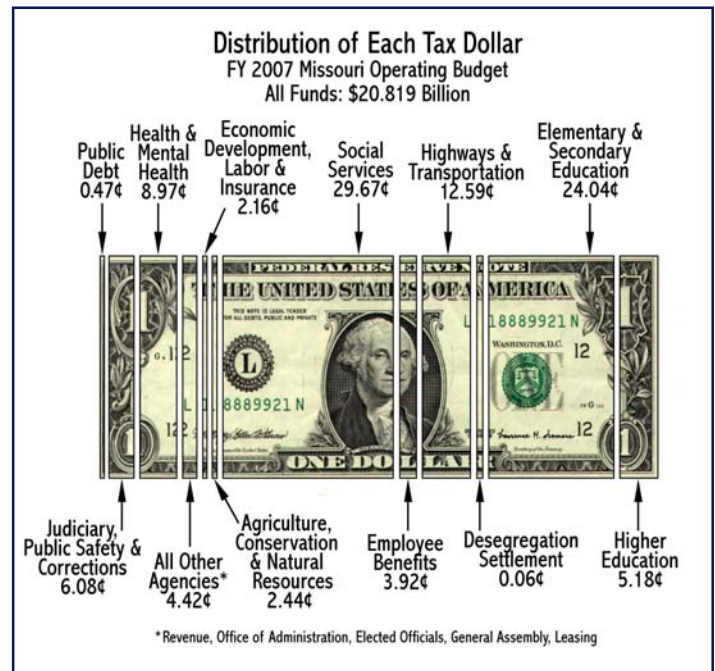
Missouri's FY 2007 Budget at a Glance

Sen. Days and her legislative colleagues approved and sent to the governor the 13 bills making up the state's operating budget for the 2007 fiscal year, which began this July 1st.

Totaling \$20.8 billion, the spending plan features a \$127 million increase for the K-12 public school funding formula and \$15 million for the Small Schools Grant program. Last year, Senate and House leadership made a commitment to increasing funding for public schools.

As a member of the Senate and joint education committees, Sen. Days was pleased to report the budget drafted this year dedicates an additional \$142 million dollars called for by the revised school funding formula.

Sen. Days also continued her commitment



to post-K-12 education by helping enact a 2 percent funding increase for public universities and community colleges — the first boost for higher education in several years.

The budget crafted this year is designed to respect taxpayer dollars and fund the programs, services and schools that Missourians need, expect and deserve.

Election Transparency

Tracking Who Contributes to Whom

Sen. Days helped guide through the Senate sweeping legislation reforming Missouri's current campaign fundraising laws and limiting travel expenses and entertainment costs lawmakers can accept from lobbyists.

House Bill 1900 prohibits lawmakers from accepting campaign contributions during the legislative session in order to avoid a perception that bills are being passed for the wrong reasons.

The measure also requires candidates to file full disclosure reports electronically to end delays in uploading the



information to the state ethics commission's website.

The ethics reform bill also removes the campaign contribution caps to individual candidates in order to improve transparency. Currently, larger contributions are hidden through legislative and political action committees. By removing the candidate limits, the public will know where the money came from and how it was spent.

The bill also requires entertainment expenses paid by lobbyists be reported in detail, and ends the practice of running lobbyist-paid entertainment expenses through legislative caucuses, rather than being tied to individual lawmakers as is now required.

New Voting Requirements

Most Will Need Photo ID

Each passing election teaches us that there is room for improvement in the voting process to ensure the voice of the people is accurately heard. But while many in the Legislature this year maintained that the focus for election reform should be on the systems for capturing and counting votes, other lawmakers insisted on focusing on the vote casters.

The result is legislation that passed despite strenuous objection. Senate Bill 1014 requires that all voters provide photo identification when casting a ballot. The photo requirement takes effect for the upcoming November 2006 general elections, but provisional ballots will be accepted from those without photo IDs until the November 2008 general elections.

The state will provide free photo IDs to those

unable to afford the cost.

Permanently excluded from having to provide photo IDs are Missourians 65 years old and over and those who have religious objections to photo IDs. By signing an affidavit, home-bound disabled citizens can vote absentee.

On a more progressive front, the legislation:

Allows provisional ballots in all races, not just the currently allowed statewide and congressional elections.

Requires voter registration solicitors to register with the Missouri Secretary of State and prohibits paying a "bounty" for voter registration forms.

Subjects to criminal prosecution anyone intimidating or harassing voters with the intent of preventing them from exercising their constitutional right to vote.

Makes using violence or knowingly providing false information to keep a Missourian from voting a felony.



Senator Days Serves on the Following Governance Panels:

Legislative Committees

Education
Governmental Accountability and Fiscal Oversight
Small Business, Insurance and Industrial Relations
Transportation

Senate Interim Committees

Adoption Promotion and Child Support Enforcement
Availability, Affordability and Wellness Promotion in Healthcare

Joint Legislative Committees

Joint Committee on Court Automation
Joint Committee on Education
Joint Committee on Terrorism, Bioterrorism and Homeland Security
Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight
Medicaid Reform Commission

Boards, Commissions and Councils

Missouri Minority Business Advocacy Commission
Missouri Children's Services Commission
Juvenile Justice Advisory Group
Missouri Area Health Education Centers Council



Sen. Days testifies at one of the many committee hearings she attends.

Selected Noteworthy Legislation from the 2006 Session

Passed

Agriculture – SB 1008 creates “Governor’s Advisory Council on Agricultural Science and Technology.”

Assisted Care – SB 616 expands requirements for housing featuring 24-hour care.

Budget – HBs 1001-1013 appropriates \$20.8 billion for state programs and services for FY 07.

Campaign Finance – HB 1900 modifies campaign contribution/ spending/reporting requirements.

Commemoration – HB 1256 designates February 4 as “Rosa Parks Day.”

Economic Development – SB 1056 raises Community Improvement District sales tax rate ceiling.

Education, Higher – SB 580 requires collaboration between higher education board and commissioner.

Education, Higher – SB 980 creates scholarships for students pursuing teaching degrees, eases student loan provisions for nursing students.

Education, K-12 – SB 894 requires low-levy school districts to certify provision of an adequate education.

Education, K-12 – SB 912 establishes a “virtual” (online) school program.

Education, K-12 – HB 1511 enacts the development of early childhood education standards.

Elections – SB 1014 requires photo ID to vote, eliminates straight-ticket voting.

Eminent Domain – HB 1944 restricts governmental power to take private property for other uses.

Energy – HB 1270 requires gasoline sold after Jan. 1, 2008, be blended with 10 percent ethanol.

Environment – SB 583 establishes a decentralized vehicle emissions inspection program.

Family Planning – HB 1485 authorizes income tax credit for contributions to qualified

pregnancy resource centers.

Health Care – SB 567 requires insurance coverage for certain clinical trial costs.

Health Care – SB 1084 extends Healthcare for Uninsured Children program (CHIPS).

Health Care – SR 2741 designates May 2006 as Stroke Awareness Month.

Humanity – SB 1189 creates holocaust Education and Awareness Commission.

Insurance, Health – SB 567 requires insurance coverage for certain clinical trial costs.

Insurance, Malpractice – HB 1837 revises rules for establishing, operating malpractice insurance associations.

Law and Order – HB 1698 strengthens laws regarding sexual offenders.

Licensing – SB 1001 broadens requirements for new drivers; eases requirements for senior drivers.

Privacy Protection – SB 578/HB 1026 prohibits protesting at funerals an hour before and after services.

Property Rights – HB 1944 restricts governmental power of eminent domain.

Public Safety – HB 1698 strengthens laws regarding sexual offenders.

Restitution – SB 1023 compensates persons imprisoned and later exonerated by DNA.

Tax, Property – SB 630 modifies Homestead Preservation Tax credit program eligibility.

Tax, Property – SJR 26 if approved by voters, exempts from taxation property owned by veterans’ organizations.

Telecommunications – SB 1066 allows certain telecom companies to request a tariff waiver.

Traffic Safety – SB 872 strengthens work zone and “move over” traffic laws and penalties; expands child safety seating requirements.

Troop Support – SB 701 expands educational assistance benefits for Missouri National

Guard members.

Troop Support – HB 1787 establishes “Guard at Home Program” to assist spouses of active-duty soldiers with immediate needs and employment.

Unemployment Comp. – HB 1456 strengthens employment security program provisions.

Utility Aid – HB 1015 adds \$6 million to home heating utility bill assistance program.

Veterans – HB 978 establishes Vietnam War Medallion program.

Veterans – HB 1552 eases ability of homeless veterans to receive mailed benefits.

Failed

Budget – SJR 25 if approved by voters, would amend constitution to create two-year budget cycles.

Disclosure – SB 786/1013 would modify when media must reveal story sources and information to courts.

Economic Development – SB 832 would modify “blight,” other provisions for Tax Increment Financing.

Education, Higher – SB 662 would double “Bright Flight” scholarships to \$4,000 a year.

Education, Higher – HB 1022 would enable scholarships, campus construction through partial privatization of state’s college loan program.

Education, K-12 – SB 983 would set goal for school districts to spend at least two-thirds of its budget on classroom instruction.

Energy – SB 915 would set targets for use of renewable energy in power generation.

Entertainment – HB 1467 would restrict sale/rental of certain video games.

Governance – SJR 39 if approved by voters, would have placed impeachment trials before the Senate, rather than the Supreme Court.

Health Care – SB 663 would allow employers to form group health care purchasing alliances.

Immigration – SB 1121/1250 would stem misclassification of undocumented workers.

Lending – SB 1043 would tighten operating conditions for makers of small loans.

Licensing – SB 1124 would modify issuance of, and requirements for professional licenses.

Life – HB 973 would regulate withdrawal/withholding of patient nutrition/hydration.

Local Government – HB 1030 would amend/enact various county governance provisions.

Medicaid – HB 1742 would broaden “Ticket to Work” medical assistance program eligibility, tighten oversight of, and expand recovery options for Medicaid fraud.

Prescription Drugs – SB 1239 would establish *Affordable Prescription Drugs for all Missourians Act*.

Privacy Protection – SB 613 would allow inclusion of cell phone and fax numbers on state’s “no-call” list.

Public Health – SB 996 would create a school lead abatement and removal fund.

Public Works – SB 849 would modify use of project labor agreements in public construction contracts.

Tax, Estate – SB 911 would repeal state’s estate tax.

Tax, Sales – SB 629 would exempt contractors from paying sales taxes on materials used on transportation department projects.

Telecommunications – SB 816 would modify rules governing competition in the cable television market.

Transportation – SB 976 would impose fees on those transporting nuclear material in Missouri.

Utility Aid – SB 955 would create rules for disconnecting electric service during hot weather.

Workers’ Comp. – SB 1074/SB 1075 would modify program’s operational policies.

The Drive Toward Energy Independence

Ethanol Standard Fuels New Economy

Sen. Days and her legislative colleagues 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 unleaded 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, significantly 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.



Donating Blood - Giving the Gift of Life

The General Assembly responded to Missouri's donor blood shortage by passing Senate Bill 1197, which allows 16-year-olds to donate blood with parental permission.



According to the American Red Cross, every two seconds someone in the United States needs blood. A single donation saves at least three lives. More than 8 million Americans take time to give blood and now, thanks to the passage of this legislation, more Missourians can give the gift of life.

Did You Know??

- + More than 38,000 blood donations are needed every day.
- + One out of every 10 people (or 4.9 million) admitted in a hospital needs blood.
- + A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 units of blood.
- + Only 5 percent of the United States population donates blood each year.
- + Shortages of all blood types usually occur during the summer and winter holidays.
- + Blood cannot be manufactured - it can only come from generous donors.

Contact Senator Days

My staff and I are always ready to answer any questions or concerns you may have about the Missouri Legislature.

Feel free to contact my office at **573-751-4106** to let us know how we can help you.

We are located on the fourth floor of the Capitol in Room 427.

You can also visit my website:

www.senate.mo.gov/days

Thank you!



Senator Rita Heard Days - District 14



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