

A portrait of State Senator Robert Mayer, a middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a brown suit jacket, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. A gold pin is visible on his lapel.

State Senator
Robert Mayer

Inside:

Local Funding

Ethanol Standard

Eminent Domain

Crime Lab

Budget Numbers

2006 Capitol Report

Missouri's Economy Sees Historic Growth

Missouri's pro-growth policies over the past several years have led to 18 months of steady job growth and economic improvement, with state revenue reaping the benefits. Revenue tallies show that during the 2006 fiscal year, Missouri saw a 9.2 percent growth rate, a figure well outside the historical norm.

Total net collections outpaced the estimated 4.9 percent growth by \$292.4 million. Further, Missouri created nearly 50,000 jobs in the past 18 months, and our state is now home to a historic 2.8 million jobs.

These unprecedented economic advances are no accident. Over the past several years, lawmakers have implemented lawsuit and workers' compensation reforms while exercising smart fiscal management.

Meanwhile, Missouri's private industries are making the most of a growing economy. Small-business owners and entrepreneurs are building on the significant improvements in Missouri's economy.

I make no promises as to next year's performance, but I am confident our economy will continue moving forward.

Key Legislation Sponsored By Sen. Mayer

Senate Bill 769: Allows the Puxico School District to move more than \$1.2 million from its incidental fund to its capital improvement fund for infrastructure improvements. The legislation also provides needed relief to the Caruthersville and Pemiscot County R-III (McCarty) school districts, which have been struggling to recover from April's severe weather. By allowing these districts to shorten their school year, their schedules will not be affected, and they will not be penalized if they do not fulfill the state mandate of 174 school days per year.

SB 792: Provides health coverage for Phase I and Phase II clinical trials for cancer treatment. (Passed under SB 567 & 792)

SB 870: Transfers responsibility for existing appropriation payments from the Office of Administration to other state agencies.

SB 1002: Allows drainage districts to impose an additional fee if the cost of preparing a maintenance-tax statement is more than



the revenue earned by the tax. Little River covers half a million acres and hosts the largest drainage district in the United States.

SB 1003: Authorizes the governor to convey state property located in St. Louis, Cole, Lincoln, Greene, St. Francois, Stoddard and Jackson counties, the cities of Dexter and St. Louis, and the Stoddard County Common Sewer District.

SB 1145: Creates a program to help families of deployed national guard members. (Passed as HB 1787)

SB 1207: Allows New Madrid County to distribute a new sales tax approved by the voters last year. Three-quarters of the tax would go toward the county, and the remaining revenue would be distributed equally among the incorporated communities within the county. Citizens already have voted for the sales tax. However, legislation was needed to distribute the funding.

Senator Mayer's 2006 Gubernatorial Appointments



Counterclockwise from upper left: Dr. Jamie Frakes of Portageville, Missouri Hazardous Waste Management Commission; Wayne Jean of Dexter, Missouri State Board of Accountancy; Reid Forrester of Poplar Bluff, Missouri Probation and Parole Board; Baughn Merideth of Caruthersville, Missouri Soil and Water District Commission; Kathie Miller of Dexter, State Committee for Social Workers. Sheryl Maxwell (not pictured) of Lilbourn was reappointed to the Children's Trust Fund Board.



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.

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 historically



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.

In addition, 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 Missouri's natural resources.

For these reasons, HB 1270 is a victory for Missourians.

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

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 just 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, the owners of 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.

Representing Southeast Missouri

The Bootheel Caucus, which consists of lawmakers who represent parts of the 25th Senate District, meets for breakfast in Sen. Mayer's office each Tuesday during session. Caucus members work as a team to implement good legislation benefiting Southeast Missouri.



Rep. Otto Bean

We were all saddened by the loss of Rep. Otto Bean, a caucus member and friend who passed away this year. "Ott" always put others before himself, and he fought passionately for the people of Southeast Missouri.

We are grateful for Ott's hard work and dedication to the Bootheel. He will be sorely missed, and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

I would also like to thank Reps. Lanie Black and Peter Myers for their eight years of service to the state. They will



Bootheel Caucus: Sen. Mayer (seated) with (from left) Reps. Terry Swinger, Gayle Kingery, Peter Myers, Lanie Black, Billy Pat Wright and Mike Dethrow. Not pictured: Reps. Rod Jetton and Otto Bean.

not return to the Legislature due to term limits, and we will miss their presence. However, we will continue to call on them for their advice and knowledge.

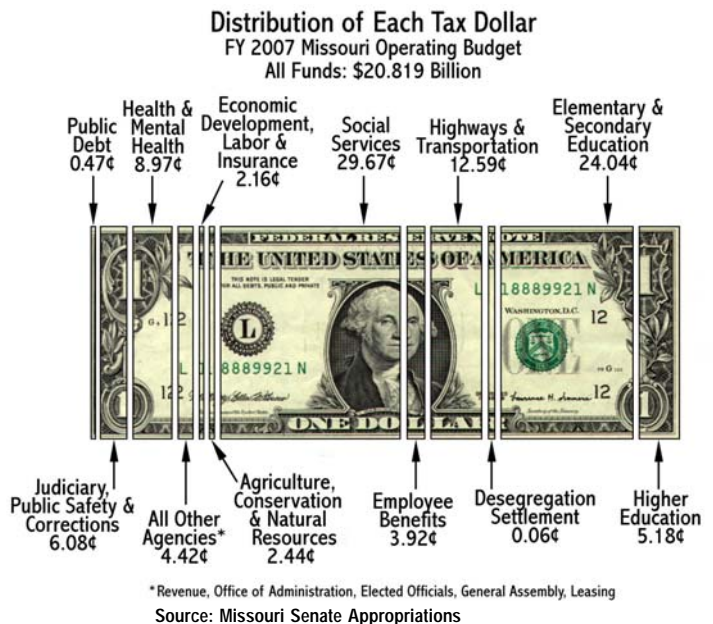
Missouri's FY 2007 Budget at a Glance

In 2006, the Legislature approved and sent to the governor 13 bills making up the state's budget for the 2007 fiscal year, which began July of this year.

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. As a member of the Senate Education Committee, Sen. Mayer was pleased that the budget drafted this year dedicates an additional \$142 million called for by the revised school funding formula.

The Legislature also continued its commitment to post-K-12 education by enacting 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.



Budgeting for the 25th District in 2006

Funding for Bootheel Farmers

- Boll weevil eradication at \$1 per acre of cotton in Southeast Missouri: \$475,000

Nutrition Centers

- Puxico receives a \$200,000 appropriation for a new or improved Senior Nutrition Center. Funding will be determined by local agencies on aging.

Southeast Missouri Crime Lab

- Southeast Missouri State University crime lab, which analyzes evidence, receives \$625,000 and becomes a highway patrol satellite lab.

Poplar Bluff Industrial Park

- City of Poplar Bluff receives \$500,000 in grant funding for the construction of a rail spur. This infrastructure improvement will create at least \$1,450,000 in private investment and 50 full-time jobs within two years.

Wayne County Drug Court

- Lawmakers approved \$48,000 in funding for a drug court commissioner for the 42nd circuit, which includes Wayne County. The position and funding will begin Jan. 1, 2007. Full-year funding begins in FY 2008, with \$96,000.

Ethanol and Biodiesel Subsidies

- Ethanol subsidy increase of \$625,000: \$8.6 million total
- Biodiesel subsidies total \$5.25 million

Protecting our Children

The Legislature this year passed two measures to crack down on sex offenders who prey on children.

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 will serve between five and 30 years.

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

Another measure, SB 1047, is designed to provide money to hire more cyber detectives across Missouri to go after Internet predators before they harm our children. Lawmakers have appropriated \$250,000 to start the program.

Contact Senator Mayer

Capitol Address:

201 W. Capitol Ave., Room 331

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Online: www.senate.mo.gov/mayer

Capitol Phone: (573) 751-3859

Toll Free: (877) 291-5584

E-mail: rob.mayer@senate.mo.gov