



Dear Friends,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to be your voice in the Missouri Senate. The work is both challenging and rewarding as the Legislature works to continue recent successes.

This year was another step forward for the state of Missouri. Lawmakers passed many important pieces of legislation to improve our state. In this report, I've outlined several issues of particular importance to me:

Eminent domain: The rights of property owners are strengthened with new laws.

Sexual predators: Harsher sentencing and new law enforcement mechanisms are now in place to crack down on those who prey on the most vulnerable.

Early childhood education: Lawmakers have directed the state to develop standards for early childhood education.

Traffic safety: Tighter regulation of child-safety seats and new restrictions on endangering emergency and law enforcement workers will make Missouri's roads safer.

Voter ID: Cracking down on voter fraud has been a top priority.

These legislative successes will do much to improve the lives of Missourians. Thank you all for your support, and I'll see you back in the district.

Sincerely,

Scott T. Rupp
District 2
Missouri Senate

Inside: Eminent Domain The Budget
Transportation Sexual Predators

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. This year I filed legislation as a state representative to restrict eminent domain abuses. This legislation, House Bill 2063, was instrumental in forming a bill ultimately passed by the Legislature — HB 1944.

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. These provisions offer needed protections to Missouri property owners.

Cracking Down on Sexual Predators

This year we passed legislation imposing harsher penalties on sexual predators. The governor signed the bill into law on June 6.

Sexual predators who commit crimes against children are going to receive hard jail time under the new omnibus crime bill, House Bill 1698.

Under the measure, 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 would receive a prison sentence of between five 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.

The legislation also includes a provision to combat sex offenders who entice children over the Internet, which is increasingly hazardous for children. Law enforcement does not have enough resources to protect Missouri children from Internet predators and child pornographers.



As a result, lawmakers approved a program to fund the hiring of more cyber detectives across Missouri to go after Internet predators. So far, we have appropriated \$250,000 to start the program, and there are initiatives to increase funding in coming years.

This legislation is needed to protect Missouri children and send a message to sexual predators that if they prey on defenseless children, then they will pay. Children may be helpless, but their protectors are not. It is the responsibility of lawmakers and law enforcement officers to shelter children from criminals who seek to do them harm.

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Other Important Measures Passed in 2006:

Early Childhood Education (HB 1511): Requires the state to develop standards for early childhood education that will be applicable to public preschool programs that receive state or federal funds.

Emissions Testing (SB 583): Decentralizes the emissions-testing program, which applies to residents of the St. Louis metropolitan area, and loosens emissions restrictions on some vehicles. Instead of the specialized emissions-testing stations operating now, certified motor-vehicle repair workers at private repair shops would be able to perform emissions tests. The measure also modernizes the testing method and caps the fee at \$24. This will benefit not only the citizens by making the process more convenient, but will also help support locally owned testing stations.

Driver's License Registration (SB 1001): Makes getting driver's licenses easier for senior citizens who have trouble proving lawful presence. SB 1001 exempts Missouri citizens

who are currently 65 or older from having to show a birth certificate when renewing their licenses.



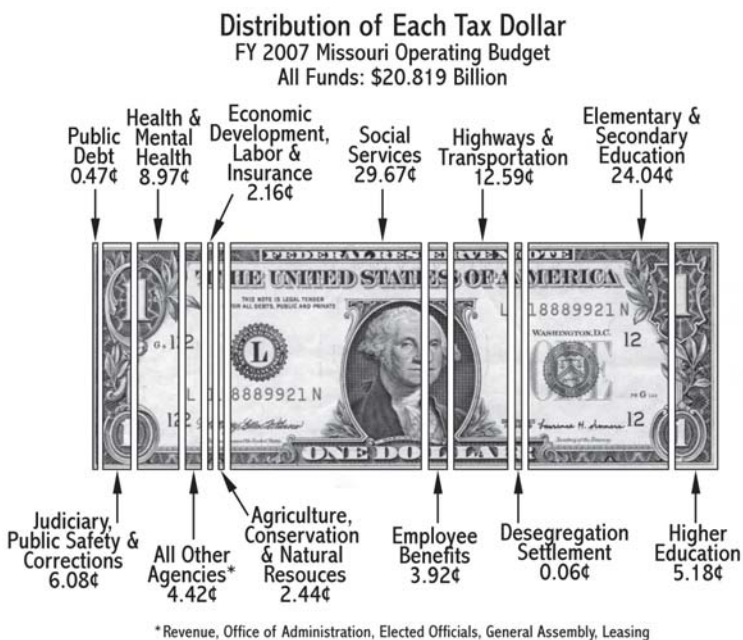
Traffic Safety (SB 872): To improve safety, the measure requires children up to age 8 to be seated in child booster seats while in automobiles. SB 872 also increases fines for various offenses that occur within highway work or construction zones, and it stiffens penalties against motorists who fail to move over when approached by an emergency vehicle or who do not move over when approaching a stationary emergency vehicle.

Voter ID (SB 1014): To restrict voter fraud, this bill requires Missourians to submit a government-issued photographic identification card in order to vote. The bill contains several exemptions to the photo-ID requirement for the 2006 elections. A photo-ID is required in many other transactions from cashing checks to boarding planes and trains, so it's fitting that protecting our voting system should follow suit.

Missouri's FY 2007 Budget at a Glance:

Lawmakers this year approved and sent to the governor 13 bills making up the state's budget for the 2007 fiscal year, which began July 1 of this year. Totalling \$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. It also includes a two percent funding increase for public universities and community colleges.



Source: Missouri Senate Appropriations

Riverboat Gaming Revenue

Missouri's riverboat gaming businesses support education in Missouri through the state gaming tax. Admission tax revenues go toward a variety of state services, including education. Although I have heard concerns about whether the revenue is being properly allocated, currently, 100 percent of gaming tax revenue for the state goes toward public education, and I have been vigilant to ensure it continues. Admissions fees are separate from the gaming tax and are distributed to the different funds listed below:

2005 Gaming Tax:

\$271 million for school funding foundation formula

2005 Admissions Tax (\$51.5 million):

- Early Childhood Education Fund (\$21.8 million)
- Missouri Gaming Commission (\$17.7 million)
- Missouri College Guarantee Program (\$5 million)
- Veterans Trust Fund (\$3 million)
- National Guard scholarships (\$3 million)
- Juvenile courts (\$500,000)
- Compulsive gambling program (\$490,000)

Source: Missouri Senate Appropriations

Transportation Projects in the 2nd District

With the 2004 passage of Amendment 3, the Missouri Department of Transportation has focused intently on improving roads and bridges in our state. The following is a brief breakdown of projects in the 2nd District:

- MoDOT has awarded a \$16.4 million contract to Fred Weber Inc. to rebuild and realign Rte. 40 from Rte. K to Rte. DD/Winghaven Blvd. Workers will construct and realign two new eastbound lanes on I-64/Rte. 40 between Rte. K and Rte. DD. Fall 2007 completion.

- MoDOT is in the process of designing the last section of new highway on Rte. 40/61 from west of Lake Saint Louis Blvd. to I-70. This two-mile section will include a new interchange at Prospect Road. Fall 2008 completion.



- Workers will replace three Rte. 79 bridges in St. Charles County. A traffic signal will also be added to the Rte. 79/Rte. M intersection. Late spring 2007 completion.

- Bridge deck and ramps at Rte. A over Hwy. 61 in Wentzville to be expanded. Hwy. 61 and surrounding businesses will be accessible during construction. October 2007 completion.

- Interstate 70: Asphalt overlay from Wentzville Parkway to Warren County line, summer 2006 completion; smoothing surface from Rte. 94 to Lake St. Louis Blvd., summer 2006 completion.

- Construction is underway on the Rte. C interchange in Moscow Mills. August 2007 completion.

Curbing Illegal Immigration

Although legislators passed many important measures in 2006, we were unable to come to an agreement on immigration reform. However, I addressed the issue with House Bill 1927.

Under the bill, illegal immigrants would be prohibited from participating in state programs such as Parents-as-Teachers, vocational education, or after-school tutoring. They would also be unable to receive in-state tuition, scholarships or other forms of financial

assistance at public universities and colleges.

HB 1927 also would authorize law enforcement personnel to detain and remove illegal immigrants in Missouri. Further, the measure requires voters to present a proper form of personal identification at the polls. This final provision passed in election-fraud reform legislation.

Although HB 1927 did not pass, I will continue my efforts to restrict illegal immigration in Missouri.

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