



Dear Citizens of the 6th Senate District,

The 2006 Session of the General Assembly was one of challenges and opportunities. We were able to pass several major bills that will benefit Missouri and its citizens. In this newsletter I will recap some of the current issues. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your State Senator. It is a responsibility I do not take lightly, and the 6th Senate seat is yours on loan to me.

Each week we write a column which is distributed by e-mail and area newspapers. During session we cover issues currently being debated, and during the interim we try to choose a topic taking place in state government you might not otherwise hear about. If you would like to receive this weekly update, simply send an e-mail to the address listed below and we will be glad to add you to the distribution list. The other methods of contacting your State Senate office are also listed below. Please don't hesitate to contact me or a member of my staff with your comments, concerns or advice. The more I know what you are thinking, the better job I can do representing your interests in the Missouri Senate. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Senator.

Sincerely,

CONTACT SENATOR VOGEL

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Contact

Capitol Tours

The Missouri State Capitol, which includes the Missouri State Museum, is open each day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Walk-in visitors are welcome, but reservations for free guided tours are available by calling (573) 751-2854. The Capitol is closed New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Protecting Private Property Rights

Reining in Government Condemnation Powers

This year, lawmakers passed legislation (House Bill 1944) protecting 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 purpose 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:

■ **Prohibits** condemning authorities

from acquiring private property through the use of the power 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.

■ **Prohibits** farmland from being designated as "blighted" for eminent domain purposes.

■ **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.

Honoring a Local Public Servant

Senate Measure Establishes the Wyman S. Basinger Memorial Highway

Although it did not make statewide headlines or mark a major policy change, the Legislature earlier this year passed a bill relevant to the history of the mid-Missouri area. Senate Bill 990 designates a portion of Hwy. 179 in Cole County as the Wyman S. Basinger Memorial Highway.

Mr. Basinger was sheriff of Cole County from 1968 until 1986 when he died of injuries sustained in an accident while responding to an emergency call.

This bill came about as the result of local citizens wanting to honor the memory of a dedicated public servant.

The signs marking the section of highway will be paid for with private donations.



Wyman S. Basinger

Missouri's FY 2007 Budget at a Glance

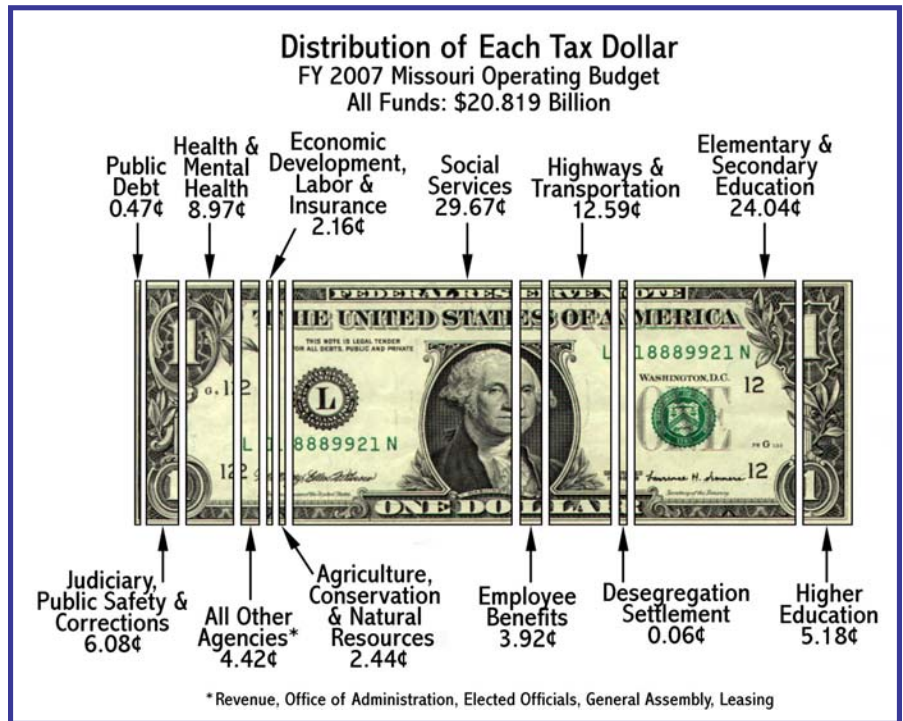
For the second year in a row, the 13 appropriations bills making up the state's operating budget were delivered to the governor's desk on time, balanced, and without a tax increase. The 2007 fiscal year began this past July 1.

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 members made a commitment to increasing funding for public schools. The budget drafted this year dedicates an additional \$142 million called for by the revised school funding formula.

Lawmakers also continued their commitment to post-K-12 education by enacting a 2 percent funding increase for public universities and community colleges — the first significant

boost for higher education in several years.

This year's state spending plan is designed to respect taxpayer dollars and fund the programs, services and schools that Missourians need, expect and deserve.



Rewarding Public Service

Lawmakers Enact Pay Raises For Valued State Workers

No state agency, program or service succeeds without the collective efforts of our dedicated public workforce.

Regrettably, budget constraints in place during recent years made it all but impossible for lawmakers to enact deserved pay raises. These constraints were especially difficult in communities like Jefferson City and other areas where government service plays a large and important role on several economic fronts.

Fortunately, due in large part to spending reforms and economy-growing initiatives implemented over the past 18 months, legislators this year were able to send the governor a budget featuring a 4 percent pay raise for state

employees — the highest single pay increase state workers have earned in 20 years.

In concert with the across-the-board raise of 4 percent are even larger pay increases for state workers in certain classifications, some of whom garnered 8 percent raises.

In keeping with the mission of rewarding dedicated service while respecting taxpayers, lawmakers made a point of not extending the raises to elected officials, including themselves.



Sen. Vogel on the Senate floor.

Gubernatorial Appointments

The governor makes appointments to departments, state boards and commissions with the advice and consent of the Senate. Each appointment is sponsored by the nominee's senator, with whom he or she appears before the appointments committee.

By virtue of representing the mid-Missouri area, where a significant portion of state government is located, more citizens are appointed from Sen. Vogel's 6th Senate District than any other.

It is an honor to have citizens from the area serve

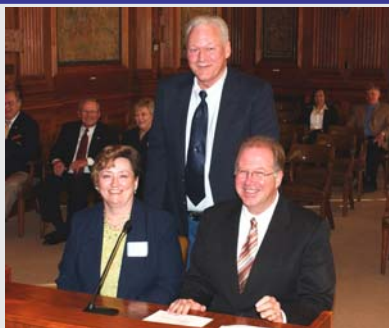
the state in various capacities, and Sen. Vogel considers it a privilege to sponsor their nominations.

If you or someone you know is interested in being on one of our state's many boards or commissions, please don't hesitate to contact Sen. Vogel's office. Some appointments require a partisan affiliation while others do not.

Pictured below seated with Sen. Vogel are just a few of the nominees from the 6th Senatorial District who were confirmed this past legislative session.



Daniel S. Britts
*Lincoln University
Board of Curators*



Betty Leake
*State Board of Cosmetology and
Barber Examiners*



Henry T. Herschel
*Missouri State Public Employees
Deferred Compensation Commission*

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