



# WEEKLY REPORT

State Senator Gary Nodler  
District 32



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Week of June 19, 2006

## Lawmaking: A Year-Round Duty

JEFFERSON CITY — The legislative session runs from the beginning of January to the middle of May each year. Lawmakers meet at the Capitol in Jefferson City during the week, and while there, they discuss in committees ways to move Missouri forward, debate on the chamber floors any pending legislation and meet with concerned constituents. It is by far the busiest time of year for a legislator, but when the members of the General Assembly adjourn for the year, it does not mean their jobs as state lawmakers are put on hold until the next January.

During the interim between sessions, lawmakers are in their districts spending time with their families or working supplemental jobs while still fulfilling their legislative duties to the citizens of Missouri. Aside from meeting with constituents and attending community events, every senator and representative is also a member of several committees. Each panel looks into specific issues and reports its findings to the General Assembly to be legislatively addressed. I myself am on 13 committees; four of them are standing Senate committees, seven are joint committees with Senate and House members and the other two are special commissions established by statute but are not just comprised of lawmakers. Many of the committees meet during interim, requiring me to be in Jefferson City often.

The following is an overview of the nine non-standing committees of which I am a member:

### **JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH**

10 House members; 10 Senate members

I am the chairman of this committee, which provides research and reference services on any legislative problems that members of the General Assembly bring to us. We also help draft bills, resolutions, memorials and amendments.

### **JOINT COMMITTEE ON CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND LEASES OVERSIGHT:**

5 members of the House of Representatives Budget Committee; 5 members of the Senate Appropriations Committee

We keep track of and provide a budget analysis of state-funded capital-improvement projects, monitor repairs or maintenance on existing state buildings calling for capital expenditures and oversee lease agreements.

### **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION:**

7 House members; 7 Senate members

We review and monitor the progress of public education and conduct in-depth studies on the issues related to funding levels for public schools and other related expenses.

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY**

7 House members; 7 Senate members

We look for ways to rid Missouri government of waste, fraud and abuse and come up with ideas that will save taxpayers money.

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON LIFE SCIENCES**

7 House members; 7 Senate members

We suggest ways Missouri can develop a strong life sciences research industry, consider what state investments would further that cause and determine how to establish policies that encourage rather than inhibit an enhanced life sciences sector.

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON MISSOURI INVESTMENT TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

7 members: the state treasurer; the commissioner of administration; one member appointed by the speaker of the House; one member appointed by the president pro tem of the Senate; and three members to be selected by the governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

We oversee the managing and investment of funds or property of the State of Missouri.

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON STATE RECORDS COMMISSION**

8 members: The secretary of state; the attorney general; the state auditor; the director of the forms management unit; a member of the House; a member of the Senate; the director of the state historical society; and the chief information officer.

We help guide the records-management program in the determination of retention periods for all records in the executive branch of state government. We review, approve, and recommend guidelines for the management of electronic records generated by the State of Missouri.

## **SECOND STATE CAPITOL COMMISSION**

11 members: the commissioner of the office of administration; one member of the Senate from the majority party and one member of the Senate from the minority party; one member of the House from the majority party and one member of the House from the minority party; one employee of the House and one employee of the Senate; and four members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

We evaluate and recommend courses of action on the restoration and preservation of the Capitol and its history, determine how to make the Capitol more accessible for physically disabled people, collaborate with other state agencies to publish books and manuals concerning the history of the capitol, its improvement or restoration and recommend what improvements or restoration projects should be done on the Capitol grounds.

## **SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY FAIRNESS BOARD**

8 members

We give Missouri small-business owners a voice in the development of rules and regulations by Missouri state departments and agencies so they are not unreasonably burdened.

If you have any concerns that relate to the issues handled by one of the committees I serve on, please let me know.

*Senator Gary Nodler represents the people of Newton, Jasper  
and Dade counties in the Missouri Senate*