

# THE GREEN REPORT

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FOR THE 13TH DISTRICT 2007



Dear Neighbors,

I am pleased to share with you the following information on the 2007 legislative session. You will find my 2007 Legislative Update highlights key legislation from this year's session. I fought hard to protect the programs that make a difference for you, your family and all of North St. Louis County.

Healthcare was a significant issue this session. I believe that working families, seniors and the disabled should not be priced out of healthcare, medications and the insurance coverage that helps them maintain their quality of life.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your involvement in the operation of our state's government. Good government requires good dialogue between elected officials and their constituents. My staff and I continue to provide many services to our constituents. I would like to thank everyone that sent a letter, an e-mail or called my office to voice concerns or offer encouragement this past session.

I am committed to working with my fellow legislators to protect the lives – and well-being – of working people, and to preserve those qualities that have made North County a special place to live. I am honored to represent you in the Missouri Senate and hope that you will contact me if you have any issue involving state government with which I might be of service.

For constituent services, you are encouraged to write or contact my Capitol office at 573-751-2420 or my District office at 314-741-0080. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the Missouri Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy P. Green". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Timothy P. Green**  
Senator, 13th District

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### ***In This Issue:***

*Healthcare Reform \* Transportation Projects for the 13th District  
Higher Education \* New In-District Director  
and much more information*

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# MEDICAID BECOMES MO HEALTHNET:

## A Tiny Step on the Road to Real Reform

In the two years since severe cuts were made, Medicaid reform has been a significant topic of discussion. A Medicaid Reform Commission was appointed in 2005, held hearings during the summer across the state, and conducted work sessions throughout the fall.

The goal for the commission was to present a plan for reform by January 2006. The reform plan was presented, yet the 2006 legislative session brought nothing in terms of healthcare reform. There was bipartisan agreement to restore Medicaid to a small number of disabled workers who need it to cover services and equipment that are not covered by private insurance. There was also agreement that the affordability test for children to be eligible for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIPs) was too restrictive. But the House and Senate were in a stalemate through the last day of the session.

Two interim committees were assigned to study the merits of two reform components: 1) restoring Medicaid to disabled workers (changing the name from "Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities" to "Ticket to Work"); and 2) enacting measures to identify and address provider fraud. The committees met throughout the summer of 2006 and again developed recommendations. In 2007, recommendations of the Special Committee for Ticket to Work were presented in House Bill 39. The chair of the Special Committee on Healthcare Facilities, introduced the recommendations to address provider fraud in House Bill 353. Both of these bills were eventually amended to SB 577.

Healthcare reform in Missouri is a long and winding road. In 2005, Missouri's leaders decided that transforming Medicaid was the key to balancing the state budget. That year, the legislature enacted the deepest Medicaid cuts in Missouri's history. Two years later, on the last day of the 2007 session, the General Assembly approved the MO HealthNet program to replace Medicaid. MO HealthNet is not real reform. While some small improvements are included, gaping holes remain. Most important: the vast majority of low-income Missourians who were cut from Medicaid two years ago remain without access to affordable healthcare. MO HealthNet locks out those who most need the services the new program provides.

MO HealthNet is a tiny step toward comprehensive healthcare reform. At this point, it is more promise than substance. Careful monitoring and research will be needed to evaluate which of its components are successful or not, and why.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation nearly 700,000 Missourians lack health insurance and Missouri has more uninsured individuals than in five out of the eight states with which we share a border. Nearly 121,000 Missouri children do not have health insurance. There are 1,475,000 children under the age of 19 in Missouri. Of these children, about 1 in 12 has no health insurance. That's 121,000 children according to the Children's Health Campaign. About 55,000 fewer children are covered today by Medicaid or the state Children's Health Insurance Program than in 2005.



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The number of Missourians without healthcare has increased: "The number of uninsured in our state increased by nearly 17% as a result of Mr. Blunt's Medicaid cuts." [St. Louis Post Dispatch editorial, 1/19/07; Cover Missouri Project: Report 1, Missouri Foundation For Health, January 2006; Show Me Fact Sheet, Missouri Foundation For Health, January 2006]. Governor Blunt's cuts to Medicaid cut care for 400,000 Missourians, including 100,000 who lost coverage completely. By 2010 health insurance premiums for families who have insurance through private employers, on average, will be \$1,502 higher due to unreimbursed cost of healthcare for the uninsured according to the Families USA Report, Paying the Premium: The Increased Cost of Care for the Uninsured, 6/8/2005.

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I sponsored SB 186 that would have created an income tax deduction for small businesses and farmers who provide health insurance coverage for employees. SB 186 would have created opportunities for employers to be able to offer affordable insurance to their employees. Individuals who do not have access to affordable employer-sponsored insurance should have access to affordable public insurance. The plan should require employers to pay a fair share for employees' health insurance. Any business/enterprise that receives tax credits or tax deductions should be required to contribute fairly to the costs of health insurance for their employees. I have sponsored legislation toward this goal every year in the Missouri Senate.

Instead of restoring the healthcare cuts that have caused real harm to Missouri families, legislators have made those cuts permanent. It's unacceptable to continue the proliferation of tax credits to wealthy special interests, while refusing to restore healthcare to 55,000 children that had it when the governor took office. Missouri can provide the quality affordable health coverage for every Missourian if we have the leadership.

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## EDUCATION: Making the Grade

Currently the 40 percent of Missouri families, earning the least, pay an average of 46 percent of their income to pay for college according to *Measuring Up 2006: The National Report Card on Higher Education*, *The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education*, 9/7/06.

According to data compiled by the Missouri Higher Education Compact, tuition rates for 4-year colleges and universities have increased by 30.5 percent in the last four years. The National Report Card gave Missouri a failing grade when it comes to affordability saying, “The state makes a very low investment in need-based financial aid compared with leading states, and Missouri offers no low-tuition college opportunities.” Missouri students have an average student debt of \$16,505 upon graduation from a 4-year institution and for the third year in a row, high school drop-out rates increased. In the 2005 – 2006 school year, they increased by 4 percent.

Prior to Governor Blunt entering office, high school graduation rates were steadily increasing. But during the 2005 – 2006 school year, the high school graduation rate dropped, representing the first decrease in five years.

Missouri can do better. For instance, I sponsored SB 187 which would create a 100 percent income tax deduction for higher education expenses for parents and/or student taxpayers. The state must make an investment in need-based financial aid compared with leading states, and Missouri should offer low-tuition college opportunities.

College tuition has gone up 30 percent in Missouri over the last four years. I disagreed with the governor’s solution that would take millions of dollars from MOHELA – the agency that provides low-interest student loans to middle-class families. This flawed plan will make college less affordable for Missouri families.

Nearly 50 percent of a working family’s annual income goes to send a kid to college. And the National Report Card – put out by an independent organization – give Missouri a failing grade on college affordability. Missouri can do better.

## MISSOURI’S ECONOMY & ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

The American middle class is shrinking. Stagnant wages, rising costs for life’s essentials and massive debt are taking their toll. What can we do to reverse this trend before it is too late? We must recognize that cheap labor can build cars and appliances, but only good paying jobs can provide economic opportunity. Political, business and academic elites are working against working men and women and their families, and there is no chance the American middle class will survive this assault if the dominant forces unleashed over the past five years continue unchecked. I support stronger illegal immigration enforcement. Illegal aliens are human beings that deserve our compassion and protection from American corporate exploitation.

In 2006, Missourians’ paychecks grew more slowly than all but two states, as Missouri ranked 48th in annual average pay growth from the year prior.

Missouri has the 12th highest unemployment rate in the country at 4.7 percent and significantly lags behind border states, including Iowa, Kansas and Illinois. According to six trend indicators compiled by the Center for Economic Development, Missouri’s economy is on a downward trend with regards to economic growth. Missouri ranks in the lower half for all indicators and has



*Senator Green speaks at a press conference.*

gone from a “B” average to a “D” average.

In 2002, Missouri ranked 28 out of the 50 states in the New Economy Index. In 2007, Missouri’s rankings had slipped from 28 to 35. The New Economy Index used multiple indicators to rate how states are structured according to the tenets of the New Economy. This represents one of the steepest declines in the nation. Meanwhile other Midwest states are making progress. Illinois, for example, has improved its rankings from 19 in 2002 to 16 in 2007. Missouri can do better.

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# PRESERVING OUR GREEN SPACES AND TIF REFORM

Despite the lack of bipartisanship on many issues facing the General Assembly, environmental issues fared well this session. The legislature passed one key initiative (The Easy Connect Act), and most of the harmful legislation that had been proposed was blocked. The “Easy Connect Act,” a provision of SB 54, removed obstacles to the installation of solar panels and other small renewable energy sources. CAFOs (concentrated animal feeding operations) sparked one of the most contentious battles of the session. The bill, SB 364, would have eliminated local ordinances regulating large-scale hog and chicken farms. It also would have prevented rural residents from suing large livestock operations as nuisances. SB 570, created a joint committee to study CAFOs, their economic impacts and the regulation of such operations. This legislation was perfected in the Senate, but never came to a final vote.

I was able to amend a massive economic development bill to include a major victory for the environmental community. I offered amendments on HB 327, which defined a “greenfield area” as it relates to tax increment financing (TIF) projects. The bill also prohibited any new TIF project in any greenfield area located in the City of St. Louis or the counties of St. Louis, St. Charles, Franklin, or Jefferson. As a result of my tenacity, greenfield areas (including flood plains) were protected from development. The original intent of tax increment financing (TIF) was to spur redevelopment in areas that otherwise would probably not be developed. But that purpose has been hurt by an expanding application of “blight” and furthermore, communities with blighted areas can't compete with more affluent ones when tax increment financing is used everywhere. I have been fighting for years to ensure that tax subsidies for developers go to older, truly blighted neighborhoods and economically troubled urban cores. Reviving poor areas was the original goal of the law on tax increment financing, but TIF has since financed shopping malls and subdivisions in affluent suburbs and vacant green fields.



*Discussing legislation with Sen. Rita Days.*

I have always supported the use of TIF and other local tax abatements for redevelopment projects. But, these tools must be used sparingly. TIF is a great means of stimulating development in truly blighted areas; however, I feel that TIFs are being used far too often and not always in the best interests of the community. I think cities are put under enormous pressure by developers, and cities should resist.

Cities should consider the impact of other taxing districts, like schools and neighboring cities, when using TIF. Missouri's TIF laws have been abused in the suburbs of St. Louis, but the law was expressly designed for distressed areas where market-financed projects won't work. TIFs should only be used to revive distressed neighborhoods and economically troubled urban cores; not affluent suburbs and vacant farmland or flood plains.

The focus of the TIF reform proposal is to use measurable, objective standards to determine where this public subsidy can be used. The current law, by contrast, uses qualifying standards that are so subjective that they are meaningless, leading to fanciful interpretations of the meaning of blight, for example.

Where there are disputes about the TIF proposal or objections by businesses, citizens or taxing districts that are adversely affected, there should be a process for judicial review of the decisions made by a TIF commission or the city council. The current law provides no means to appeal these decisions, regardless of how far-reaching their impact.

My TIF reform, amended to HB 327, required St. Louis, St. Charles and Jefferson counties to establish county-wide TIF commissions in place of municipal TIF commissions to approve tax increment financing projects. These provisions also require the governing bodies of any city, town, or village in Missouri to approve by a two-thirds affirmative vote any TIF project not recommended by their governing TIF commission.

This change would help decrease the current abuse of tax increment financing in Missouri by shining the light on municipal TIF actions and providing taxpayers with more input on TIF projects. In just St. Louis County, this bill would replace the 90 or so TIF commissions with one county-wide commission. This takes the pressure off municipal commissions by making them part of a county-wide team, all working toward the betterment of the greater communities they serve. This all would make it easier for taxpayers to follow municipal TIF actions and keep municipal governments accountable to them.

The reform would provide an important starting point to unite urban, suburban, and rural interests in the pursuit of things in which we all believe: the creation of household wealth and strong local neighborhoods, responsible patterns of development and a vibrant and competitive regional economy.

House Bill 327 was vetoed by the governor and a special session could be called to address the fiscal issues.

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## FUNDING CONTINUES FOR BELLEFONTAINE HABILITATION CENTER

Senator Green helped secure \$384,624 in new General Revenue to ensure that the Bellefontaine Habilitation Center is able to maintain services at a 172 bed level, effectively continuing operation of the state run facility through 2008. This matches the governor's privatization plan to have a 120-bed private facility and 52-bed state run facility on the Bellefontaine campus. Over \$20 million was appropriated for Bellefontaine for FY '08, which began July 1, 2007.

“The General Assembly also approved a 6 percent total pay increase for direct care staff across all Mental Health Facilities, an increase of \$3.8 million.” said Sen. Green.

Sen. Green also supported an increase of \$15.9 million to effectively care for individuals with the highest level of need (all 11s and 12s on the Division of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) waitlist – the waitlist scale is 2 to 12 with 12 being highly disabled and deserving the highest level of care).

Sen. Green also successfully fought for the addition of \$19.2 million for a 2 percent provider rate increase to MRDD and a 4 percent provider rate increase for Comprehensive Psychiatric Services and for the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programs for alcohol and other drug abuse.

“Alcohol and drug abuse costs the state's economy an estimated \$6 billion a year in lost productivity, healthcare expenditures, property damage, and crime.” said Sen. Green.

During the final weeks of the 2007 legislative session, Sen. Green fought for the passage of Senate Bill 174, that contained mental health reforms that are urgently needed to ensure the safety of the residents in private facilities.



*Sen. Green discussing North County issues with State Rep. Gina Walsh.*

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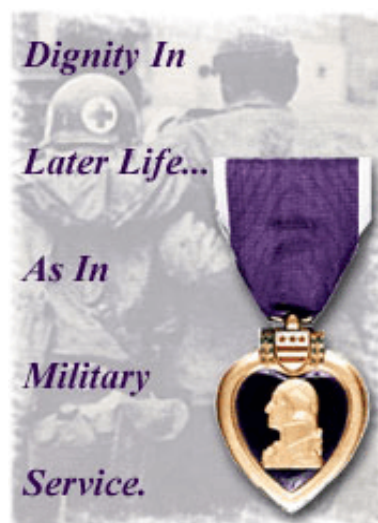
## FUNDS ALSO SECURED FOR ST. LOUIS VETERANS HOMES

The Legislature secured a 5.93 percent increase over the prior year for Missouri's Veteran's Homes. Over \$67 million was appropriated for Missouri's veterans for FY 2008.

Sen. Green successfully fought to fully fund 150 vacant beds in all veteran's homes. This is an increase of over \$2 million in additional funding and over 100 new full time employees to provide care for Missouri's worthy veterans.

“Providing for staff increases that eliminate the number of vacant beds; ensuring veterans receive state and federal benefits they have earned; and maintaining and repairing veterans' homes were priorities we met.” said Sen. Green. “We increased funding for veterans' services and progress is being made to reduce the waiting list. Veterans should not wait to be cared for in their last years. We counted on them to protect us in times of crisis and war; we must ensure that they get the services they need now.”

An estimated 97 percent of the beds will now be occupied beginning in 2008. Other increases for veteran's homes for FY '08 included over \$1 million for services, over \$25,000 for the Veteran's Ombudsman program, and a 3 percent cost-of-living adjustment for employees.



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# LEGISLATION THAT PASSED

Overall, the General Assembly was extremely selective in terms of truly and finally passing bills. The Senate passed 57 of 710 (8 percent) of the bills introduced at the beginning of the legislative session, while the House passed 76 of 1,292 (5.8 percent) of the bills introduced. Many bills were rolled into omnibus legislation dealing with broad topics such as insurance, agriculture, crime, etc. The problem with this tactic is that omnibus bills often die because of the numerous amendments added during debate.

Abortion – HB 1055 applies surgical-level operating standards on abortion clinics, and creates the Missouri Alternatives to Abortion Services Program and the Missouri Alternatives to Abortion Public Awareness Program.

Assisted Care – HB 952 requires sprinkler systems in most long-term care facilities by 2012.

Budget – HBs 1-13 appropriates \$21.4 billion for state programs and services for FY 2008.

Capital Improvements – HB 16 appropriates funding for campus construction projects.

Capital Improvements – SB 389 enables construction projects for various state colleges, universities and agencies.

Capital Punishment – HB 820 makes the identities of members in a “death penalty execution team” confidential.

Children – SB 16 requires vision exams for kindergartners and first-graders.

Crime Victims – HB 583 increases penalties against domestic violence abusers; strengthens victim protections.

Eco. Devo. – HB 327 would enact numerous commerce-growing provisions; restrict TIF financing on most projects and provide sales tax exemptions for aviation fuel for international flights leaving from Missouri.

Education, Higher – SB 389 increases accountability standards, caps tuitions, facilitates campus construction.

Firefighting – SB 47 prohibits employers from firing volunteer firefighters for joining a department or missing work due to an emergency.

Governance – SB 22 revises and expands several components of local government.

Governance – SB 339 revises public construction project bidding and contracting.

Healthcare – SB 577 reforms reactive Medicaid system with prevention-focused *Mo HealthNet* and expands Ticket-to-Work Program.

Insurance, Health – HB 818 establishes the Missouri Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act.

Labor – SB 339 lifts requirement for “project labor agreements” on public building ventures.

Language – HJR 7 will ask voters to amend constitution to make English the language of all official proceedings in the state.

Licensing – SB 195 establishes certifications for pharmacists to administer medication therapeutic plans.

Mental Health – SB 3 enacts safeguards for facilities and protections for patients.

Personal Protection – SB 257 bans authorities from confiscating firearms during a state of emergency.

Public Safety – SB 198 makes it a Class A felony to distribute controlled substances within 1,000 feet of a public or state park.

Retirement – SB 406 makes changes to several public retirement plans.

Self Defense – SB 62 removes duty to retreat before using deadly force to defend against intruders.

Seniors – HB 444 exempts retirement benefits from state income tax.

Senior Care – HB 952 requires sprinkler systems in most long-term care facilities by 2012.

Tax, Credit – HB 453 gives tax credits for donations to food pantries.

Tax, Cut – HB 444 exempts Social Security benefits from state income tax.

Tax, Property – SB 30 expands property tax exemptions.

Tax, Sales – SB 30 provides sales tax exemptions for common carriers.

Unemployment Comp. – SB 433 expands program for veterans of the war on terror.

Utility Aid – HB 15 adds \$6.3 million to home heating utility bill assistance program.

Veterans – HB 654 increases the amount of matching grants to be awarded annually for veterans’ service officer programs and creates Stolen Valor Act.

Video – SB 284 enables single, statewide franchise agreements for video providers.

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## 2007 BILLS SPONSORED BY SENATOR GREEN

SB 174 - Would increase oversight and accountability of mental health facilities and group homes.

SB 175 - Would have strengthened Missouri’s prevailing wage.

SB 176 - Ensured fair and responsible use of Missouri tax increment financing (TIF).

SB 177 - Protected Missouri seniors by providing mandatory minimum punishment for securities fraud crimes against elderly and disabled.

SB 178 - Barred employers from misclassifying employees as independent contractors to curb hiring of illegal aliens.

SB 179 - Required any applicant for healthcare benefits from a public assistance program to identify his or her employer, thus discovering costs to taxpayer.

SB 180 - Barred hiring of illegal aliens on public works projects.

SB 181 - Would create the "Public Service Accountability Act."

SB 182 - Would amend requirements for workers' compensation benefit payments to assist healthcare providers recover their costs.

SB 183 - Promoted transparency of campaign contributions by increasing reporting requirements.

SB 184 - Ensured no overlapping of fire protection districts, departments, and volunteer associations.

SB 185 - Would establish the "Drunk Driving Memorial Sign Program" to promote awareness of the loss of human life.

SB 186 - Would create a 100 percent income tax deduction for health insurance costs for small businesses and farmers who provide health insurance coverage for their employees.

SB 187 - Created a 100 percent income tax deduction for higher education expenses for parents an/or student taxpayers.

SB 188 - Would level the playing field between corporations and taxpayers by repealing timely filing discounts for sales tax remittance.

SB 189 - Called attention to the unsustainable growth of the Missouri Corrections budget by promoting awareness of life choices.

SB 190 - Prohibited commercial advertising inserts and other junk mail from accompanying official Missouri motor vehicle registration notices.

SB 262 - Required cable television companies to automatically give money back to subscribers for any disruption in service.

SB 263 - Promoted transparency of campaign contributions by increasing the reporting requirements of out-of-state committees.

SB 264 - Provided for street light maintenance districts in North County, allowing street lights to be installed.

SB 265 - Prohibited penalties and interest on property tax payments ensuring county errors do not cost the taxpayer.

SB 357 - Would create the "Marie Van Dillen Act" ensuring emergency room physicians communicate with primary care physicians for the benefit of their patients.

SB 423 - Required the Public Service Commission to develop and enforce minimum standards for electric utility service.

SB 424 - Prohibited employers from misclassifying employees curbing the hiring of illegal aliens.

SB 507 - Would allow consumers to request that a security freeze be placed on their credit reports thus increasing the protections on their credit.

SB 508 - Would prohibit the Missouri Gaming Commission or employees from operating or being employed by gambling boats.

SB 522 - Required the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to recalculate the state school aid for the Riverview Gardens School District to correct an error.

SB 573 - Would put Missouri businesses first by requiring at least 5 percent of State of Missouri retirement investments be made in Missouri-based companies.

SB 574 - (As passed in SB 22) Ensures qualified 911 telecommunicators by providing for continuing educational training requirements.

SJR 15 - Would increase term limits for members of the General Assembly from eight to twelve years in each house.



# DIVIDING THE DOLLARS

## MISSOURI'S '08 OPERATING BUDGET

### MISSOURI'S MAIN SOURCES OF FUNDING

are the following taxes: Individual Income; Sales & Use; Corporate Income & Franchise; Insurance Premium; and Liquor & Beer.

2008 General Revenue	\$8,212,907,639
Federal Funds	\$6,154,775,886
Other Funds	\$7,119,945,409

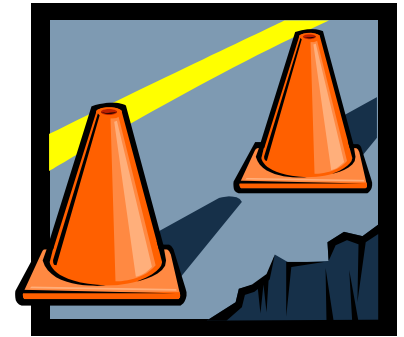
Resources dedicated to specific purposes, for example: Highway & Road Funds; Proposition C & Cigarette Tax; Lottery & Gaming Proceeds; Conservation, Parks, Soil & Water Funds.

TOTAL AVAILABLE AFTER REFUNDS	\$21,487,628,934
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### EACH DOLLAR IS DIVIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Social Services	30.92¢
Education	29.71¢
(Elementary & Secondary	24.24¢)
(Higher Education	5.47¢)
Transportation	10.40¢
Health & Senior Services	4.01¢
Mental Health	5.02¢
Employee Benefits	3.81¢
Judiciary, Corrections & Public Safety	6.10¢
Elected Officials, Legislature &	
Public Defender	1.70¢
Economic Development, Labor & Insurance	2.26¢
Agriculture, Conservation &	
Natural Resources	2.52¢
Public Debt	.45¢
Desegregation Settlement	.05¢
All Other Agencies	3.05¢

# LATEST NORTH COUNTY MoDOT CONSTRUCTION NEWS



The second phase of the Rte. 367 improvement project between New Jamestown Rd. and Coldwater Creek, will incorporate the same roadway design and aesthetic improvements as the first phase of the roadway. The new project was awarded in Oct. 2006 and began in Dec. 2006. All construction is scheduled to be complete by June 2008. Stage 2 and 3 upcoming schedule:

- The construction of the bridge that will carry New Jamestown Rd. over Rte. 367 begins.
- The construction of the U-turn ramp bridge to carry northbound Lusher Rd. traffic over Rte. 367 to southbound Benham Rd. begins.
- The construction of the retaining walls and pavement on Rte. 367: During this stage traffic will not be able to cross Rte. 367 at New Jamestown Road since Rte. 367 is being lowered approx. 25 feet.
- During this stage traffic will use the north end ramps and travel on the outer roads throughout the entire project.
- During this stage of construction traffic traveling on Lusher Rd., including anyone going west on New Jamestown Rd., will proceed to the Lindbergh Blvd. interchange to access Rte. 367 southbound. The second phase of the reconstruction of Rte. 367 is scheduled to be complete by June of 2008.

## 511 - around-the-clock real-time traffic information

Now, travelers in the greater St. Louis metropolitan area – St. Louis City and County, and Franklin, Jefferson and St. Charles counties – can get around-the-clock real-time information on traffic or incidents on interstates or major state highways.

The free 511 voice-operated telephone service is provided to the Missouri Department of Transportation through an agreement with a private sector vendor. It allows travelers to get the latest information on roadway congestion or incidents simply by dialing “511.” Travelers in Illinois or the rest of Missouri can access the same information for the St. Louis area by dialing 877-478-5511 (877-4STL-511). The 511 travel information service is free, though cellular users will pay normal airtime and roaming charges, and pay-phone customers will pay the minimum pay-phone toll fees.



*Sen. Green discussing an amendment with President Pro Tem Michael Gibbons and Minority Leader Maida Coleman.*

### Drive Smart in Work Zones to Arrive Alive

**Buckle Up!** – Every trip, every time – safety belts save lives.

**Stay Alert!** – Dedicate your full attention to the roadway.

**Follow Signs!** – They’ll guide you through work zones safely.

**Expect the Unexpected!** – Watch for flaggers, workers and equipment.

**Pay Attention!** – Turn the radio down and don’t use your cellular phone.

**Be Patient!** – Remember workers are improving the road for future travels.

**Don’t Speed!** – Follow posted limits and adjust for weather conditions.

**Don’t Drink and Drive!** – Impairment of any kind is unacceptable.

**Be Nice!** – Merge as directed, don’t tailgate and don’t change lanes in a work zone.



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# SENATOR GREEN HOLDS FIVE IN-DISTRICT TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Senator Green was joined by State Representatives Gina Walsh, Bruce Darrough, and Tony George and many local officials for five town hall meetings this spring.

Missouri Public Service Commissioners Steve Gaw and Robert Clayton spoke on consumer issues related to utilities. Representatives from the Missouri Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division, the Missouri Department of Social Services, Missouri Department of Revenue, and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources made presentations and answered questions.



*Sen. Green answers questions at one of the town hall meetings.*



*Sen. Green with Steve Gaw of the Public Service Commission.* These meetings concentrated on state aid and services provided to his constituents. Rarely do the people have direct access to a wide vary of state agencies in one sitting. These meetings were opportunities for Sen. Green to listen to his constituents and for the public to learn about the various state services provided by their tax dollars.

handouts that contain both helpful guidance and an abundance of state government contacts where constituents can get more help. Constituents are encouraged to attend and voice their concerns and ideas. These town hall meetings will encourage discussion among a local audience, community leaders, and elected officials. Sen. Green looks forward to the next round of town hall meeting in the spring of 2008. Information about the 2008 meetings will be on Sen. Green's website – [www.senate.mo.gov/green](http://www.senate.mo.gov/green).

The five town hall meetings were a success and Sen. Green plans to have additional meetings next spring. These meetings are tremendous information resources as the agencies provide

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*Constituents expressing their views at one of the town hall meetings*



# STUDENTS FROM DISTRICT 13 VISIT THE CAPITOL



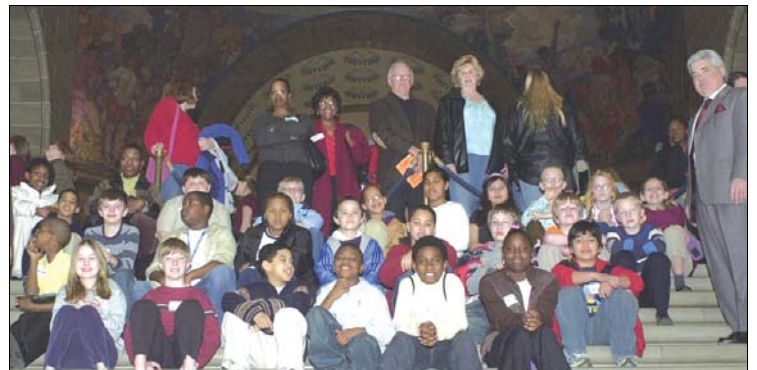
*7th grade Salem Lutheran*



*5th grade Glasgow Elementary*



*7th grade St. Angela Merici*



*4th grade Galactic Gifted Program -- Hazelwood School District*



*4th grade Robinwood Elementary*



*8th grade St. Rose Phillipine Dushesne*



*Part of 4th grade group from Brown Elementary with Rep. Tony George*



*4th grade Koch Elementary*

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# FOSTERING A GOOD BUSINESS CLIMATE IN MISSOURI

Sen. Green is dedicated to providing responsive and committed leadership that builds a vibrant and thriving community as businesses seek to achieve prosperity and an outstanding quality of life. Sen. Green understands that a good business climate in Missouri creates family-supporting jobs with living wages and benefits. North County businesses need to be connected to one another in the local, regional, and global marketplace.

Sen. Green voted in favor of HB 327, an omnibus economic development package that would help the state's struggling manufacturing industry by providing a sales tax exemption on the cost of utilities and chemicals used in the manufacturing process. Small businesses would also benefit from this bill. The establishment of a small business investment tax credit would provide \$10 million in tax credits for investment in a small business located in a distressed community or in a rural area. HB 327 was vetoed by the governor and a special session could be called to address the fiscal issues.

One of the first bills passed by the legislature and signed by the governor this year has already resulted in a multi-million dollar investment in the state by a major telecommunications company that is sure to stimulate job growth and the economy. SB 284 allows telecommunications companies to apply for one statewide cable franchise license that allows the companies to provide television service to customers anywhere in the state rather than negotiating licenses with each city, a timely and costly burden that created barriers to competition in the marketplace in the past. In response to the change in law, the telecom company pledged to spend \$335 million over the next three years building a fiber optic network that will allow the company to provide video and Internet services in Missouri.



*Sen. Green with Senators Ryan McKenna, Chuck Graham, Jolie Justus and Jeff Smith.*

House Bill 444 - contains an income tax deduction on health insurance premiums for individuals. Sen. Green sponsored SB 186 that would create a 100 percent income tax deduction for health insurance costs for small businesses and farmers that provide health insurance coverage for their employees.

Senate Bill 376 - will extend the sunset on the tourism fund and provide millions of dollars to attract visitors to Missouri. Another boost to tourism came in the form of SB 64, legislation that will enact a more uniform school start date for Missouri schools to allow families to spend more time traveling the state and give tourism employers an opportunity to extend their marketing season.

Senate Bill 433 - another legislative priority of Missouri businesses will protect \$138 million in Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) credits that were in jeopardy of being lost due to Missouri falling out of compliance in its statutes covering veterans. Sen. Victor Callahan of Independence sponsored SB 433, which was passed to protect veteran benefits and employers' FUTA credits by keeping the state compliant.

## New In-District Director

After 17 years as a Senatorial in-district director, Rosemary Cira is opting for a little less work in her life and is retiring from Senator Green's staff. Rosemary has helped many, many constituents with Missouri State Government questions and problems over the past years. Rosemary will be missed as in-district director, but is still planning to be active in the community. She became active in politics in the 1960s and worked for Senator Green for two years. "I thank Rosemary for all of her help in the past years," said Sen. Green.

Marian A. Qualls-Nelson will be the new in-district director. Marian is looking forward to assisting constituents with problems related to state government.

In addition to her new responsibilities for Sen. Green, Marian works as an IT project manager in the healthcare industry. She's active in the North County community through her involvement in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the National Black MBA Association and her church, Shalom Church City of Peace.

Marian resides in Florissant with her husband Darron and daughter Amirah. "Marian will complement the terrific team I have in Jefferson City," said Sen. Green, "I look forward to great things from this fine team of talented, energetic and capable professionals."



*New In-District Director  
Marian Qualls-Nelson, (left)  
with Rosemary Cira*

### Office Information

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**Marian Nelson**  
District Staff

**Committees:** Appropriations; Commerce, Energy and the Environment; Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions and Ethics; Small Business, Insurance and Industrial Relations; Joint Committee on Capital Improvements and Leases Oversight; Joint Committee on Government Accountability; Joint Committee on Legislative Research; Joint Committee on Public Employee Retirement; Missouri State Employees' Retirement System Board

**Boards and Commissions:** Member of the following organizations: St. Angela Merici Catholic Church; IBEW #1 Union; North County Labor Legislative Club; Missouri State Labor Council; St. Louis Labor Council; Florissant Valley Chamber of Commerce; North County, Inc.; DePaul Health Center Community Advisory Board; Spanish Lake Association; and President of the Missouri State Building & Construction Trades Council (AFL-CIO)

MISSOURI STATE SENATE  
**SENATOR TIMOTHY P. GREEN**  
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