



# SENATOR MATT BARTLE

**District 8** – Capitol Building, Room 319 Jefferson City, MO 65101

**Column for Week of:**  
**May 7, 2007**

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## Where Your Money Will Go

This week, both the State Senate and State House put the final touches on the state budget. It's a \$21.4 billion spending plan for *your* money.

This year's funding includes significant increases for education. Elementary and secondary education will enjoy a nearly 4 percent increase. Once again, we've fully funded the revamped Foundation Formula with a \$132-million increase for all schools. The higher education budget will see an increase in money of about \$100 million compared to last year's budget. Colleges and universities will get more than a 4 percent increase in funds.

We've made sure to give law enforcement the money it needs to protect the citizens of this state. The Department of Public Safety budget will go up by about \$45 million in Fiscal Year 2008 with a whopping 17 percent increase from state coffers. We've built in raises for our Water Patrolmen so they make what their contemporaries in the Highway Patrol make. More than a million dollars has been given to shut down the sexual predators who troll the Internet looking to prey upon our innocent children. Crime labs will get more money to make sure once the bad guys are caught, prosecutors can get a conviction. If we want safer communities, we have to give our law enforcement officers all the tools they need.

Healthcare and social services programs in Missouri will see more money as we look to take care of those who might not be able to take care of themselves. General revenue for the Department of Mental Health will see a 6.6 percent growth. The State Health Department receives nearly \$10 million more than FY 2007, and we have given the Department of Social Services a significant increase of 9.8 percent. Sixteen million dollars has been added to the money that will go to reimburse Medicaid providers. Nursing homes will get an extra \$9 a day for each patient from the state. Missouri's foster program will benefit from this budget by giving foster parents an extra \$30-40 a month for each child they have opened their home to.

These are the priorities we have set in the Fiscal Year 2008 budget, which takes effect July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. As I write this, we are in the final stages of approving the 13 budget bills and will be sending the full spending plan to the governor's, desk once again, balanced and on time.

If you have comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by e-mail at [matt\\_bartle@senate.mo.gov](mailto:matt_bartle@senate.mo.gov) or by phone at (888) 711-9278. My web address is <http://www.senate.mo.gov/07info/members/mem08.htm>.