

THE STOUFFER REPORT

Senator Bill Stouffer Senate District 21 For the Week of: July 30, 2007 Capitol Building, Room 332 Jefferson City, MO 65101 Contact: Aaron Baker (573) 751-1507

Tracking Missouri Spending – Seeing Your Tax Dollars At Work

Throughout the year, I've highlighted several Web sites in my weekly columns — Web sites that help those in rural Missouri learn more about legislation in the Missouri Senate and House of Representatives, the Amber Alert System, the Ticket to Work Program, Missouri River projects, MoDOT work zones, and FCC guidelines and regulations.

The Internet is a great tool and there are numerous Web sites out there that benefit the citizens of this state. I wanted to share with you another Web site — the Missouri Accountability Portal, or MAP (http://mapyourtaxes.mo.gov/MAP/). This free, Internet-based tool provides users easy-to-use data about state spending. Through this site, Missourians can see how state government is using their tax dollars.

The Missouri Accountability Portal is one of the first comprehensive searchable databases in the nation that consists of financial records based on real-time data. This site was established using existing state resources and is updated at the close of each business day, providing up-to-date access to information pertaining to state spending.

The Web site allows citizens to map out how their tax dollars are being spent, while at the same time citizens can learn how the state uses fiscal discipline and responsibility with their hard-earned dollars. Visitors to the MAP site can search by budget category, vendor, or contract.

Links to other public information maintained by the state can be found on the MAP site. State employees' salaries will also be listed in a searchable database beginning January 1, 2008.

The Missouri Accountability Portal was created in response to Missouri's growth in technology use. In a society where the latest and greatest often come out on top, this site will help improve our services and provide more information to citizens of the state.

If you have questions or comments about the Missouri Accountability Portal or any other issue, please call my office toll free (866) 768-3987 or send me an e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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