



Office of
Jason Crowell State Senator
The Crowell Connection

Senator Jason Crowell – Serving Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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Making Megan's Law Stronger

Forcing All Sex Offenders to Register

There are different types of legislation that lawmakers can introduce to try to improve the lives of Missourians. The most common type is a bill, which changes current state laws or makes new ones. There are also Senate Concurrent Resolutions, which express the will of lawmakers but have no force of law. Senate Joint Resolutions are usually introduced to change the State Constitution, something that cannot be done without a vote of the people. SJRs go through the same process that bills do, and if they are approved, the issue is put on the ballot in an upcoming election.

This is the case with a measure I filed this year to make Missouri safer. SJR 9 would give voters the power to uphold the original intent of Megan's Law, which went into effect in 1995, requiring that all convicted sex offenders register with local sheriff's departments.



Due to conflicting language in the Missouri Constitution, the Missouri Supreme Court last year ruled that it is unconstitutional to force sex offenders to register if they were convicted before the enactment of Megan's Law. This takes a large number of sexual

offenders off of the state registry. Without this constitutional change, there will be sexual offenders who will be able to avoid the registry.



This change is necessary, because regardless of when sex offenders are convicted, the community should be aware of where they are. I want to give Missouri voters the chance to amend the constitution so that Missouri is not a safe harbor for those who harmed children before 1995. The first step in this process has

been achieved as SJR 9 was heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee this week and received strong reviews.

Upon voter approval, SJR 9 would allow Megan's Law to be applied to all sex offenders. The Missouri Constitution is one of only five in the nation that includes wording that essentially protects pre-1995 convicted sex offenders. And I know that Missourians don't want to allow sexual predators to seek refuge in the Show-Me State. Our children deserve that protection — not the predators.

This is why I expect continued support for ensuring that Megan's Law remains a comprehensive shield for the innocent.

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

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