



# 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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## Driving Safe this Summer

As temperatures continue to rise and schools close for the summer, many families will be packing up their vehicles for vacations throughout the state. Whether traveling a familiar road to a relative's home or heading to a state park that the family has never seen, you should always stay aware of your surroundings in order to ensure safety on the roads. It is my hope that families and friends in Southeast Missouri will have the chance to enjoy

exciting and safe summer vacations this season.



The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) has announced that this summer will be one of its largest ever construction seasons. This means that travelers might face more delays and work zones on their way to their vacation destinations. A list of work zones in the state by area is available online at [www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org) so you can be aware of possible delays on your trip. MoDOT has also named the top

ten work zones for the summer season, which includes a construction area in the 27<sup>th</sup> Senate District. Crews will be working on a new interchange for Interstate 55 in Cape Girardeau, which could result in 10-15 minute delays as vehicles are diverted to exit ramps.

Drivers also need to be careful in work zones where long waits can lead to frustration. Construction crews are spending their days trying to improve Missouri's roadways, and drivers need to respect the speed limits and safety signs posted in work areas. Fines for speeding are doubled in these areas, and law enforcement will be watching the roadways.

Unfortunately, increased traffic means increased traffic accidents. One important way for you to make sure that the entire family arrives at their destination safe is to buckle up. Law enforcement officers will be keeping an eye on drivers this summer with particular attention given to safety belt and child restraint laws. Not only is wearing a seat belt the law, it can be the difference between life and death in a serious accident.



Summer is a time for celebration and many people will be spending time at gatherings where alcohol is served. Last year, there were 90 fatalities in Southeast Missouri due to impaired driving. Each of these deaths could have been prevented, and there is no reason why anyone should get behind the wheel after drinking. Sobriety checkpoints throughout the state will be trying to catch those who are driving while under the influence, but a difference can also be made by using common sense and by looking out for friends and neighbors. If a friend has been drinking, don't let them drive home.

No matter where you are traveling, make sure to drive smart and stay safe so that you can enjoy the trip. In later columns, I will tell you about some of my favorite vacation destinations located right here in Missouri. I wish you all a safe and blessed summer.

### **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](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

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