



# WEEKLY REPORT

State Senator Gary Nodler  
District 32



Room 433 - State Capitol Bldg. - Jefferson City, MO 65101 – Contact Barbara Mustoe Phone: (573) 751-2306

**Week of April 23, 2007**

## Working for the 32<sup>nd</sup> District

### *Funding for Southwest Missouri*

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Towards the end of every session, the General Assembly begins to focus on state spending. This week, the whole body of the Senate discussed and approved the \$21.4 billion state budget. Next, I will join my Senate colleagues in conference with House delegates to make any final decisions before presenting the budget to the governor.

The process of making the budget can be trying, but it is one of the most important things that we do here in Jefferson City. As vice chair of the appropriations committee, I know as well as anyone the importance of making sure your tax dollars are spent in a responsible manner. I also want you to know that the work I am doing in the Senate will directly benefit the 32<sup>nd</sup> District.

There are several opportunities for higher education in Southwest Missouri. The area is home to Missouri Southern State University (MSSU) — a staple of the state university system. The budget currently allocates \$23.5 million to go towards the school. In a previous column, I also discussed the dental hygiene distance education program at MSSU, which will receive over \$300,000. In addition, Neosho is the home of Crowder College, a top-notch community college that will benefit from \$4.7 million in state funding.

One important asset for the communities of the 32<sup>nd</sup> District is the Joplin Crime Lab, located on the MSSU campus. This facility is not only an asset to students wanting to learn forensics, but it also serves law enforcement agencies throughout the area. The existence of a crime lab in Joplin helps solve crimes quickly and justly. The budget currently awards over \$600,000 to go towards this facility. These funds will help to convert the facility into a Highway Patrol satellite lab, making it available to even more law enforcement agencies.

The area will benefit from several other appropriations throughout the 32<sup>nd</sup> District. The Joplin Regional Center, which serves citizens who are mentally or physically disabled, will receive \$2.2 million. The newly opened Joseph Newman Innovation Center, an economic development tool for entrepreneurs

wanting to grow and develop their business, will receive \$175,000. The Battle of Carthage State Historic Site, the historic location of the Civil War battle will receive \$3,000. This state funding will help each of these facilities grow and continue to benefit the areas they serve.

These are just some of the appropriations that will help our community to continue to grow and prosper. It is my job to make sure that the concerns and needs of my constituents are addressed, and that is what I will continue to do.

*Senator Gary Nodler represents the people of Newton, Jasper  
and Dade counties in the Missouri Senate.*