



# WEEKLY REPORT

State Senator Gary Nodler  
District 32



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**Week of May 7, 2007**

## Appropriations to Benefit Dade County

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As an elected official, I am responsible for the interests of all of my constituents, whether in communities large or small. This thought is never far from my mind when representing the 32<sup>nd</sup> District in the Senate. By the close of this week, my legislative colleagues and I will have approved a balanced state budget, which will move on to the governor for his signature. In this endeavor as well, I have not forgotten the priorities of the communities of Dade County.

The \$21.5 billion budget, contained in House Bills 1-13, includes increases to elementary and secondary education, higher education, and healthcare. The spending plan, for fiscal year 2008, beginning on July 1, is evidence of a prospering Missouri economy. My colleagues and I are aware that this money does not belong to the government, but to the taxpayer, which is why the budget was crafted in a fiscally responsible manner featuring sensible increases to programs and services used by Missourians.

Elementary and secondary education will receive a 3.8 percent increase for a total appropriation of \$2.8 billion. This includes \$15 million for the Small Schools Grant Program. Two years ago, the state began to use a new funding formula in order to appropriate money to local school districts based on student need, not property value. The plan, is being phased in over the next six years, gives each district a specific amount per each student. Schools in Dade County will receive approximately \$4.4 million, based on enrollment totals in previous years.

The Department of Agriculture will also see significant increases with a total budget of \$51.6 million. This includes \$108,100 to expand the meat and poultry inspection program. This program is geared towards smaller producers, making it easier for these farms to have their products inspected and, in turn, creating more profits for the producer. A total of \$198,000 will fund the cattle disease control efforts through animal identifier. These funds also allow for markets to update their equipment with electronic hardware and software, allowing agriculture in Missouri to stay current.

We are constitutionally charged to create a state budget each year and, as the vice chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, it is a duty I take seriously. The state spending plan decides where your money goes, and I assure you that it is going to places that will benefit the people of Dade County and all Missourians.

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