

PROTECTING YOUR TAX DOLLARS

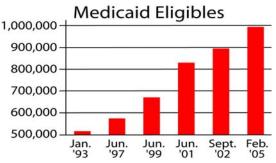
Budget How big is a billion dollars?

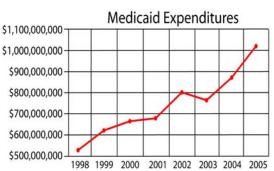
- A billion seconds ago it was 1976.
- A billion minutes ago Jesus was alive.
- A billion hours ago our ancestors were living in the Stone Age.
- A billion dollars ago was only 8 hours and 20 minutes, at the rate the United States government spends it.
- Missouri's fiscal year 2009 budget is \$22.4 billion.

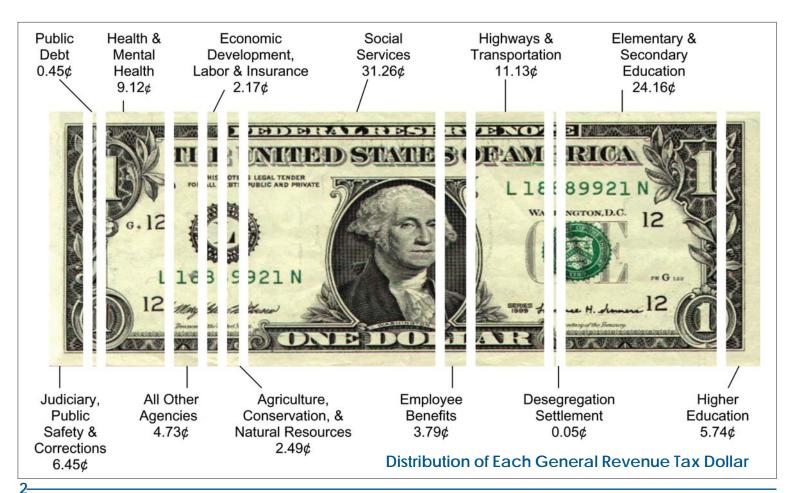
During the time Sen. Stouffer has served in the Senate, Missouri has gone from operating under a budget shortfall to balanced budgets — and even surpluses. In **2003**, Missouri had a **\$1 billon shortfall**. The beginning balance for the last fiscal year was nearly **\$600 million dollars**.

Government is often criticized for being too large and wasteful. In 2002, Missouri government employed **62,832** state workers. In 2008, the number has decreased to **59,873**.

In 2004, Missouri's Medicaid system was growing towards bankruptcy. Elected officials made tough decisions to slow the program's growth, including cutting waste and abuse.







STOUFFER CHAMPIONS TRANSPORTATION

The Stouffer Plan: Truck-Only Lanes

A drive across I-70 will immediately convince you that Missouri must do something about the heavy traffic flow on its interstates. By 2030, traffic on I-70 will be double what it is now, which is on average, 36,000 vehicles per day. That figure is closer to 100,000 in Kansas City and St. Louis, and 70,000 in Columbia. Interstate 44 is about 10 years behind I-70 in regards to traffic flow, but still sees its fair share of heavy traffic.

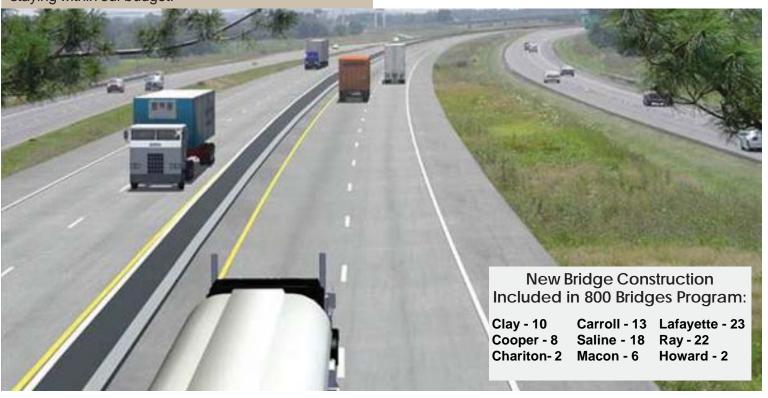
Senator Stouffer's plan is to implement "truck-only" lanes. Trucks would occupy their own lanes while cars would drive on outer lanes with a median separating them from trucks in rural areas and adjoining outer lanes in urban areas. Trucks currently represent around 40 percent of all traffic on I-70 and that percentage is growing twice as quickly as the car traffic rate.

Right now, it is estimated widening I-70 would cost roughly \$3 billion. There are different schools of thought on how to relieve traffic congestion on both interstates. Something has to be done and it must happen fast. Federal highway funds will all but dry up by 2010. Senator Stouffer is doing everything he can to come up with the best solution to keep Missourians safe on the roads while staying within our budget.





In 2007, MoDOT proposed an innovative way to fix two of the oldest bridges on the Missouri River at Glasgow and Miami. A new deck will be placed on top of the existing structures, saving over \$10 million on each project with similar results — a wider, more modern and reliable bridge with complete vertical clearance. With the help of local, state, and federal leaders, funding for a temporary ferry was also secured for the Glasgow project.



CULTIVATING RURAL MISSOURI

Four Reasons Why Missouri Schools are Stronger

1. Largest School Budget in State History

Senator Stouffer once again reaffirmed his commitment to make the education of Missouri's children his number-one priority. For fiscal year 2009, he helped increase the state's education budget, adding nearly \$128 million without raising taxes.

2. New Foundation Formula

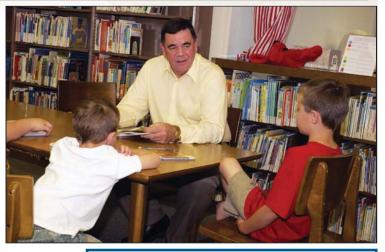
In 2005, lawmakers passed a foundation formula that bases funding on the needs of Missouri school children, not the taxing capacity of the district. The formula provides \$800 million in new funding over seven years, including a \$121.3 million increase this year.

3. Higher Teacher Minimum Salaries

Research shows that teacher quality is the leading predictor of student achievement. To retain quality teachers and to attract new ones, in 2005 the Legislature increased the minimum salary for teachers with a bachelor's degree by \$4,000 and for teachers with a master's degree by \$6,000.

4. Increased Funding for A+ Schools

Lawmakers added \$3.5 million to the A+ Schools Program this year. The additional funding will cover the costs of a projected increase in eligible students.



Increased Funding Per County* Since 2005:

Carroll: \$248.913 Clay: \$2,560,365 Cooper: \$1.514.518 Howard: \$507,599 Lafavette: \$2,903,734 \$1,461,514 Macon: \$3,176,261 Ray: \$2,499,679 Saline: *Chariton Co. not included due to

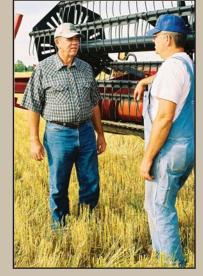
*Chariton Co. not included due to significant drop in student population.

Making Agriculture a Top Priority

5% Biodiesel Standard:

Senator Stouffer is leading the effort to create a 5 percent biodiesel standard, which would help Missouri's economy and reduce dependence on foreign oil. If passed in 2009, this legislation would be a win-win-win for Missouri consumers, farmers, and the environment.

Missouri River: Senator Stouffer continues to lead the fight to stop a man-made "Spring Rise" on the Missouri River and passed a bill this year to allow levy and drainage districts to more efficiently protect Missouri farms and families from disaster. The bill, SB 939, was signed into law by the governor.



Fencing Supplies: Missouri farm families can celebrate the passage of SB 931 this year, which included a sales tax exemption for fencing supplies. Like most supplies used for agricultural purposes, fencing supplies can now be purchased without sales tax. This legislation has been on Rural Missouri's wish-list for decades.

Large Animal Vets: The state is investing in returning large animal veterinarians to Rural Missouri. Currently, eligible veterinary students at the University of Missouri may be awarded up to \$80,000 worth of loans for veterinary school to help fill the void for this specialty in livestock-producing areas.



Missouri's Job Growth

- From #1 in job losses to 80,000 new jobs.
- During the previous administration, Missouri lost 70,000 jobs.
- Missouri is now back to work through:

Tort Reform

Cracking down on frivolous lawsuits driving businesses and doctors out of Missouri.

Workers' Compensation

Protecting rights of injured workers without threatening Missouri jobs.

Missouri Quality Jobs Act

Establishing incentives to attract new jobs to Missouri.

Securing District Grants

The following 2008 grants have been issued to 21st District employers to job train 978 employees through the Missouri Job Development Fund's Customized Training Program:

- \$50,000 to train 124 employees in Glasgow.
- \$60,000 to train 195 employees in Boonville.
- \$27,500 to train 300 employees in Macon.
- \$15,000 to train 75 employees in Carrollton.
- \$35,000 to train 49 employees in Macon.
- \$15,500 to train 12 employees in Fayette.
- \$8,000 to train 223 employees in Excelsior Springs.

THE RUMBLE STRIP

160,000

The approximate number of constituents in the 21st Senate District.

2,156

Constituents, who have called, emailed, written, visited or received correspondence from our office.

<u>8,000</u>

Photos and articles from the newspaper clipped and sent.

1,972

Courtesy resolutions have been dispatched.

<u>217</u>

People have been helped with problems in different state departments.

61

Grants and tax credits have been awarded, exceeding \$10.2 million.

"Sen. Stouffer's assisted living bill is one of the most significant pieces of senior legislation passed in Missouri in decades."

Reaction to passage of SB 616 by the CEO of an association of homes for the aging, which worked with similar groups to pass the new law allowing more seniors to choose assisted living over nursing homes. (Stouffer - SB 616 - 2006)

Stouffer Helps End Taxes on Retirement Benefits

Bill phases out taxes on retirement benefits for some Missourians (HB 444 – 2007).

Stouffer: "Yes" to Property Tax Relief for Seniors

All taxing jurisdictions are now required to roll back their tax rate to counter reassessment increases. (SB 711 - 2008)

Stouffer's Veterans' Law is a Model for the Rest of the Nation

Bill provides current and former military and families better access to education, mental health care and housing. (HB 1678 – 2008)

Immigration Reform Tops Stouffer Priorities in 2008

Taxpayer resources now reserved for legal citizens only; more authority provided to detain illegals. (HB 1549 – 2008)



TOP QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Since 2005, Aaron Baker (left) Macon County, Matt Michelson (center) of Jefferson City, and Heidi Kolkmeyer of Lafayette County (right), have served constituents in the 21st District. Baker is a former state 4-H president and state vice president of the cattlemen's association. He manages the office and local grants and his focus is agriculture. Kolkmeyer is a licensed real estate agent in Odessa and has her American degree in FFA. She handles all constituent services and her focus is transportation. **Michelson** and his family have a long history in the Legislature. He is a graduate of Westminster and a licensed auctioneer. He handles all legislation while the Senate is in session and his focus is health care and veterans.

STOUFFER STAFF



Grants Awarded to Rural Missouri

City of Bosworth

\$500,000 for wastewater system improvements.

City of Kearney

\$300,000 for the new Kearney Senior Center.

City of Lexington

\$120,000 for demolition of dilapidated properties.

Warrensburg

Favetteville

City of Fayette

\$500,000 for water distribution improvements.

City of Salisbury

\$50,000 for the demolition of downtown buildings.

Friends of the Farris Theatre, Richmond \$258,195 to help finance the Farris Arts District.

Friends of Arrow Rock

\$113,715 for restoration of five historic properties.

Contact Senator Stouffer

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Lt. Governor Peter Kinder - Room 224	573.751.4727
Secretary of State Robin Carnahan - Room 208	573.751.2379
State Auditor Susan Montee - Room 121	573.751.4824
State Treasurer Sarah Steelman - Room 229	573.751.2411
Attorney General Jeremiah "Jay" Nixon	573.751.3321
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