

State Senator

Chuck

District 19

GRAHAM

Fall 2008



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From the Desk of... Senator Chuck Graham

Fall 2008

Dear Friends,

As your state senator, communicating with the citizens of Boone and Randolph counties is one of the most important aspects of my job. This newsletter helps accomplish that goal.

There are a number of interesting articles in this year's report. A recap of some of the past session's legislative accomplishments and disappointments is included, and another article explains the passage and subsequent veto of important legislation relating to the University of Missouri student curator. Also included is a listing of several appropriations that will benefit area citizens. There are also pictorial sections featuring local residents who have been appointed to state boards and commissions, as well as area students who excelled in academics and athletics.

Being elected to serve as your state senator is truly an honor. Representing roughly 165,000 citizens of Boone and Randolph counties is an awesome responsibility that I take very seriously. Thank you for letting me be your voice in Jefferson City.

Sincerely,

Senator Graham's Staff:

Senator Graham's staff is ready to help if you have questions or concerns about the Missouri Legislature, or if you simply wish to book a tour of our beautiful Capitol.

To contact the Senator's office, call (573) 751-2162 or e-mail:

chuck.graham@senate.mo.gov

Mail: Sen. Chuck Graham
Room 329, State Capitol
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Gubernatorial Appointments

Many citizens from Boone and Randolph counties selflessly volunteer their time to be on various state boards and commissions. Some of these positions are appointed by the governor, and Sen. Graham supported these citizens as a member of the Gubernatorial Appointments Committee. Besides the citizens shown below with Sen. Graham, other area residents approved by the committee this year include Tony Luetkemeyer, Drue Duncan, Laura Neal, Cynthia Parks, Judith Pastorino and Wendy Dillender.



Richard Hicks is one of the newest members of the Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board.



Helen Washburn, a former trustee of Stephens College, is now a member of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education.



Jerry Taylor is able to use his expertise as a member of the Missouri Alternative Fuels Commission.



Sen. Graham sponsored the successful nomination of **Omar Davis** as the head of the Department of Revenue.



Brian Jamison helps keep Missourians safe as a member of the Board of Probation and Parole.



Kristin Thomas-Sohl is concerned with the welfare of children as a member of the Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board.

Legislative Wrap-Up

The 2008 session of the Missouri Senate was not as divisive as some of the past sessions. While there were disagreements about particular bills and legislative priorities, there was a genuine attempt by most senators to try and work out their problems. The result was a relatively benign session that saw the passage of several good bills and a couple of bad ones.

Among the legislative accomplishments this year was **Senate Bill 711**. This bipartisan measure increases the Senior Citizen Property Tax Credit (also known as the "Circuit Breaker") from \$750 to \$1,100, and it also expands who is eligible to receive it.

House Bill 1549 cracks down on employers who hire undocumented workers. Employers are barred from hiring illegal immigrants, and they could lose certain state permits and licenses if they knowingly employ illegal workers.

Military families and veterans returning from combat will benefit from **HB 1678**. Children in military families from other states will be able to enter Missouri schools more easily, and military spouses who are teachers will be able to receive a provisional teaching license. A tuition cap of \$50 per credit hour is also set for qualified returning combat veterans who wish to attend college.

County sheriffs' deputies could be one step closer to better pay under the provisions of **HB 2224**. This bill creates a supplemental salary account that will be funded by a \$10 processing fee on court orders and other legal documents. Many sheriffs' deputies – especially in rural areas – receive take-home pay of less than \$20,000 a year despite the important and dangerous nature of their jobs.

Other bills passed this year include: **SB 806**, which requires state and federal flags to be flown at half-staff when a Missouri resident is killed in the line of duty; **SB 1105**, which creates a tax form check-off for contributions to breast cancer awareness; **SB 1139**, which creates an

organ and tissue donor registry within the Department of Health and Senior Services; and **SB 1181**, which creates tax incentives for energy efficiency and a "sales tax holiday" when purchasing energy efficient appliances for one week each April.

Some bills that were approved were not, in my opinion, good state policy. **SB 1038** removes limits on contributions to political candidates even though these limits were overwhelmingly approved by voters.

Many days of debate were wasted on **HB 2393** before it was passed. This bill would have given \$240 million in tax credits to a French-Canadian aerospace company to help it build a plant near Kansas City even while many

Missouri-based businesses are struggling with the bad economy. The original version of this bill would have given the company \$880 million in tax breaks, but it was scaled down after legislators from both political parties began to ask questions about the

deal. There were also questions about relatives and businesses with ties to state government officials that would have benefited from the proposal. In the end, the bill became meaningless after company officials used Missouri's offer to extract concessions from its workers, and the new plant will be built in Canada.

There were missed opportunities to address problems like improving access to health care insurance and prohibiting automated phone calls. And some time was spent defeating certain bad laws that seem to pop up each year. Measures that would have taken away money from public schools by creating "school vouchers," destroyed Missouri's fair method of selecting state judges and disenfranchised some Missouri voters all failed. So, all in all, it could have been much worse. That is a victory in itself.

If you'd like to learn about any bill that passed or failed in 2008, you can go to the Senate's website at www.senate.mo.gov or the House's website at www.house.mo.gov.

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Why Wait in Line?

Did you know many people can renew their license plates without having to go to a Department of Revenue fee office? Just get on the Internet and go to www.plates.mo.gov. This is the Missouri Online Registration Exchange (MORE).

To be prepared, here are the items you'll need when renewing your license plate online: the renewal notice with a PIN number you received in the mail, your paid personal property tax receipt(s), your vehicle insurance card and a filled-out safety inspection certificate (if applicable). You can pay with a major credit card or E-checks. This site can't be used for renewal of driver's licenses, specialty license plates (like vanity plates or MU plates), boat registrations or disabled placards.

Any questions? Call the Department of Revenue at (573) 751-4509.





Senator Graham's LEGISLATION

Graham Passes Student Curator Legislation; Measure Is Vetoed by the Governor

One of the most important pieces of university student legislation in many years was successfully approved by the Missouri General Assembly in 2008, only to be vetoed by the governor.

Senate Bill 873, sponsored by Sen. Graham, was approved by large bipartisan margins in both the Missouri Senate and House. The bill would have allowed the student representative on the University of Missouri Board of Curators to have a vote, except on most personnel issues.

The student vote was conditioned on whether Missouri loses a congressional seat after the 2010 census, which is likely to happen. This distinction is important because the current nine members of the board are appointed from each of Missouri's nine congressional districts. Senate Bill 873 would have

allowed the student curator to have a vote, and the process of selecting the traditional curators from each of the remaining eight congressional districts would have remained the same.

Senator Graham and the bill's supporters believe it is appropriate to give the student curator a true voice on the board. Many other states allow their student representatives to have a vote, and all of the past student curators — usually professional or graduate students — have been exemplary members of the board.

Student representation is especially important when tuition costs rise each year.

An attempt to override the governor's veto was unsuccessful, but Sen.

Graham has pledged to reintroduce the bill in the 2009 legislative session.



Tony Luetkemeyer is shown here with Sen. Graham at his gubernatorial appointment hearing as the student member of the University of Missouri Board of Curators.

Dollars for the District

This year's state budget includes many positive appropriations for the 19th District. Besides general increases in funding for K-12 education, higher education and state employee salaries, several area projects also obtained support from the state. These specific projects include:

- **\$5.3 million** – Columbia School District Career Center/Vocational Programs
- **\$5 million** – Thompson Autism Center
- **\$2 million** – Various University of MO agriculture experiment station improvements
- **\$600,000** – Planning/design of a new State Historical Society Building
- **\$300,000** – Planning/design of a new Nursing/Health Professions Building
- **\$31.1 million** – Reappropriation for new facilities for Ellis Fischel Cancer Center

The funds for Ellis Fischel Cancer Center were a particular victory for the area. Earlier efforts to obtain these funds were clouded by attempts to link the money with restrictions on the type of research being done at the center. Thankfully, this year's appropriation is not linked to any research restrictions.



Senator Graham's PHOTOS

Many outstanding citizens and students live in Boone and Randolph counties. Sen. Graham went to several community events and invited others to come to the Capitol to recognize their various achievements. The photos on these two pages represent the best of the 19th Senatorial District.



Jacob White (left), a recent graduate of Southern Boone County High School, won the Class 2 state track championship in the 400 meters. His mother, Sherry, is on the right.



MU Head Football Coach **Gary Pinkel** accepts a resolution from Sen. Graham after leading the Tigers to a No. 1 ranking and 2008 Cotton Bowl victory.

Chris Ghan, a Rock Bridge High School graduate who now attends Westminster College, won the state History Day competition and placed third nationally with his presentation on Benjamin Franklin.



Nic Ford of Centralia High School, won the Class 2 state track championship in the 110-meter high hurdles. Pictured from left to right are **Darin Ford**, **Nic Ford**, **Sen. Graham** and **Coaches Erle Bennett and Nathan Gordon**.



The **Rock Bridge Boys Tennis Team** won its first state championship in 2008. **Coach Ben Loeb** (right) has also won state championships with the Rock Bridge girls and Hickman boys tennis teams.



The **Cairo Girls Softball Team** brought home the first state team championship in the school's history. Cairo also won the state girls basketball championship in early 2008.

Sen. Graham and **Charlotte Schartz**, city clerk of Renick, pose outside of a local restaurant in Renick. Sen. Graham assisted Charlotte and many other Renick-area citizens in obtaining funds for a new tornado warning siren.



2007 NASCAR Busch Series Champion and Columbia native **Carl Edwards** visited Sen. Graham in his Capitol office before being honored in the Senate for his athletic achievements and charitable generosity.



Isaac Pasley, a student at West Junior High, is the first Columbia student to win the state geography bee. He also placed seventh in the national competition.



Sen. Graham congratulates the **Hickman High School** team that won the 2008 American Mock Trial Invitational in Charlotte, NC.



The **Rock Bridge Girls Basketball Team** dominated the playoffs in their successful run to a state championship. The title is the first in team history.



The **Harrisburg Boys Basketball Team** continued the strong showing of teams from the 19th District by capturing a state title in March. The title is the second in three years for the team.

State Officials Contact Information

Unless otherwise noted, the mailing address for the following officials is:
State Capitol, 201 W est Capitol Avenue, Jefferson City, MO 65101

Governor Matt Blunt(573) 751-3222
Lt. Governor Peter Kinder.....(573) 751-4727
Secretary of State Robin Carnahan.....(573) 751-4936
State Auditor Susan Montee.....(573) 751-4824
State Treasurer Sarah Steelman.....(573) 751-2411
Attorney General Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon.....(573) 751-3321
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Department of Conservation P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102(573) 751-4115
Department of Corrections P.O. Box 236, Jefferson City, MO 65102(573) 751-2389
Department of Economic Development P.O. Box 1157, Jefferson City, MO 65102(573) 751-4962
Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102(573) 751-4212
Department of Health & Senior Services P.O. Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102(573) 751-6400
Department of Higher Education 3515 Amazonas Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65109(573) 751-2361
Dept. of Insurance, Fin. Institutions & Prof. Registration P.O. Box 690, Jefferson City, MO 65102 ... (573) 751-4126
Dept. of Labor & Industrial Relations 3315 W. Truman Blvd., Jefferson City, MO 65109(573) 751-4091
Department of Mental Health P.O. Box 687, 1706 E. Elm, Jefferson City, MO 65102(573) 751-4122
Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102(573) 751-3443
Department of Public Safety P.O. Box 749, Jefferson City, MO 65102(573) 751-4905
Department of Revenue P.O. Box 311, Jefferson City, MO 65105(573) 751-4450
Department of Social Services P.O. Box 1527, Jefferson City, MO 65102(573) 751-4815
Department of Transportation P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102(573) 751-2551

All departments can be accessed through Missouri's state government home page at www.mo.gov

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