

*Serving the citizens
of the 28th Senatorial District*



MISSOURI STATE SENATOR DELBERT SCOTT

The 2008 legislative session was a proud and productive one, not only for lawmakers in the General Assembly, but for the citizens they represent throughout the great state of Missouri. The General Assembly sent a local property tax reform measure, legislation that tackles illegal immigration, and important anti-crime and health care initiatives to the governor's desk in 2008. And for the fourth year in a row, lawmakers have balanced the state's budget without increasing taxes.

The 2008 legislative session may be over, but our work serving Missourians across the state is far from complete. This year, the General Assembly sent more than 135 bills to the governor for his signature. Most of these measures, passed by both the Senate and House, became laws that will affect citizens in Missouri. Several of the measures that have been signed by the governor are featured in this end-of-session legislative report.

Even though lawmakers are back at home in their Senate districts, our work continues in the timeframe between legislative sessions, known as the interim. Between the end of the legislative session and July 14th, the governor signed legislation passed by the General Assembly, and throughout the interim, lawmakers draft legislation for the 2009 legislative session. Many of us that serve in Jefferson City also have jobs in our legislative districts that not only help us understand the constituents we serve, but also help us support our families while we are working in the Capital City.

The next legislative session starts Jan. 5, 2009. You can stay up-to-date on legislative happenings in Jefferson City as well as in the 28th Senatorial District year-round by visiting my Senate website and reading my weekly legislative columns (turn the page to find out more).

I am both honored and humbled to be entrusted with the responsibility of being your voice in the Missouri Senate.

Take care and God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Delbert Scott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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POLITICAL HAPPENINGS ON THE WEB: ACCESSING THE LATEST IN LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION



Access to the latest information in the Missouri Senate is just a click away. By going online and visiting www.senate.mo.gov/scott, you can learn about your state government, follow legislation through the General Assembly, and find information on issues in the 28th Senatorial District.

Senators
Committees
Session Information
Information Center
Bill Reporting System

My Senate website provides visitors with information about my sponsored and co-sponsored bills, biography, and columns posted weekly about legislation and events both in the capitol and in the district.

This site also lists the committees I serve on in the Senate, showcases a map of my senatorial district, and provides visitors contact information for my capitol office.

You can even watch a video streamed from my Senate website featuring the heroic story of my grandmother, Hazel Frances Scott, told on the floor of the Missouri Senate.

I urge you to visit my Senate website and learn more about your state government.



Sen. Scott and grandson Clay often take trips around the district in the old pickup truck.



“Not to be served but to serve.”

From Matthew 20:28, written above the Kirchoff Gallery doors, the rear entrance to the Missouri Senate chamber located on the 3rd floor in the Capitol rotunda.

SERVING THE SENATE

I was elected to the House of Representatives in a special election in 1985 and served in that chamber until 2002. While serving 18 years in the House, I was elected four times to leadership positions.

When I was elected to the Senate in 2002, I knew I wanted to continue to serve in a leadership position within my caucus. Currently, I serve as the Senate Majority Caucus Secretary — one of the ranking leadership positions within the Majority Caucus. Some of my leadership duties include noting key issues and aiding my fellow leadership holders when the Majority Caucus meets to discuss important legislation.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS:

Administration

Financial, Governmental Organizations, and Elections (Chair)

**Pensions, Veterans’ Affairs and General Laws
Transportation**

Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

Joint Committee on Legislative Research

Joint Committee on Preneed Funeral Contracts

**Joint Committee on Public Employee
Retirement**

Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight

Missouri Health Insurance Pool

While I serve on several committees in Jefferson City, I’m also involved in numerous legislative conventions and study groups.

I am a member of the American Legislative Exchange Council. The organization upholds many principles, including developing policies that ensure the powers of our government work first for the people, then the states, and finally, the federal government.

I am also a member of the National Conference of State Legislatures, which helps state policymakers advance their ideas, provide a forum for the enhancement of their ideas, and to help take their ideas from state legislatures to Washington, D.C.

PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR NURSES, FIGHTING METH USE IN MISSOURI

Before the governor signed Senate Bill 724, nurse practitioners (APRNs) who had a written agreement with a physician could prescribe any non-addictive medication. However, many common medications fall into the category of “controlled substances,” and under Missouri law, these medications could only be prescribed by physicians.

Thanks to my legislation, Senate Bill 724, Missouri has joined 47 other states in allowing qualified advanced practice registered nurses authority to prescribe controlled substances in schedules III, IV, and V while operating under collaborative practice agreements. Particularly in rural areas like parts of the 28th Senatorial District, nurse practitioners are the “front door” to health care and a physician may not even be in the health care facility. This measure, which received bipartisan support in the General Assembly and was signed by the governor June 10, adds additional safeguards and should make health care more accessible in Missouri.

Senate Bill 724 also contains anti-meth provisions that further limit the sale of pseudoephedrine products, a key ingredient in making meth. Before the passage of Senate Bill 724, pharmacies were required to maintain a paper log and document any transactions where the customer purchases pseudoephedrine products. My measure requires pharmacies to upgrade to an electronic, rather than written log. The act specifies that the photo ID provided by the buyer of the pseudoephedrine product must be issued by a state or the federal government and be shown prior to the purchase.

COMBATING ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Comprehensive legislation relating to immigration was passed on the final day of session (May 16) and signed by the governor on July 7. House Bill 1549, sponsored by Rep. Bob Onder, tackles illegal immigration on several fronts, primarily as it relates to employers who hire undocumented workers. Missouri employers are barred from hiring illegal immigrants and could lose permits or licenses and pay fines if they knowingly employ illegal immigrants. The bill also empowers the Missouri Highway Patrol to enforce federal immigration law, prohibits illegal immigrants from receiving public assistance benefits, and prohibits Missouri counties and cities from designating themselves as “sanctuaries” for illegal immigrants.

Before the passage of House Bill 1549, our state was already taking steps to combat illegal immigration by informing agencies on how to verify information provided by employees at no cost, directing state law enforcement agencies to immediately take steps to verify the immigration status of every criminal presented for incarceration, and requiring every contractor who does business with the state to certify that their employees are eligible to work in the U.S.



“Free and fair discussion will ever be found the firmest friend of truth.”— Quote by George Campbell Etched in the Missouri Senate chamber

From Bill to Law:

Noteworthy Legislation Passed by the Senate and House in 2008

Senate Bill 714 — A **comprehensive crime bill** that strengthens the protections already in place for Missouri children, particularly as it relates to sexual offenders, including those who exploit children online. The legislation expands the state's definition of sexual crimes, strengthens the severity of charges for sex crimes or attempted sex crimes against children, and overturns an existing state law that allows attorneys or child pornography defendants to retrieve alleged pornographic evidence.

Senate Bill 718 — An **economic development measure** that increases the annual cap on the amount of certain tax credits, such as the Enhanced Enterprise Zone program and the Neighborhood Assistance program. It also expands and extends the Quality Jobs Act, increasing the maximum annual amount of tax credits that may be issued from \$40 million to \$60 million and extending the program through August 2013.

Senate Bill 720 — An **omnibus utilities bill** that creates the "Manufacturer Responsibility and Consumer Convenience Equipment Collection and Recovery Act" by requiring manufacturers of computers to implement recovery plans for the collection of and the recycling or reuse of their obsolete equipment. Before a manufacturer can sell its computers in Missouri, their recovery plan must be implemented and a copy of the plan submitted to the Department of Natural Resources. The department will educate consumers about the recycling and reuse of computers and provide a website with any relevant information relating to the program. Senate Bill 720 also creates a hot-weather rule by prohibiting electric or natural gas companies from shutting off service to past-due customers on days when the temperature is forecast to rise above 95 degrees or the heat index is above 105 degrees.

Senate Bill 768 — **Creates the Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders**, which will advise the governor, members of the General Assembly, and state agencies in developing a statewide comprehensive plan for an integrated system of training, treatment and services for individuals of all ages with ASD.

Senate Bill 806 — Honors those who gave the ultimate sacrifice by requiring the **U.S. and Missouri state flags to be flown at half-staff** for one full day whenever a Missouri resident is killed in the line of duty during military service.

Senate Bill 818 — An **online harassment crime bill** that expands stalking and harassment laws to include Web-related communications and increases the penalties for such crimes. The new measure upgrades the charge of harassment from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class D felony, when the perpetrator is 21 years old or older and the victim is 17 years old or younger. Class D offenses are punishable by up to four years in prison with accompanying fines. Repeat harassment offenders, regardless of ages involved, will also be charged with a Class D felony. In addition, Senate Bill 818 requires school boards to add Internet stalking to the list of crimes they must report.

Senate Bill 830 — **Provides veterans a quality education** by limiting the tuition a public Missouri university or college may charge to certain combat veterans to no more than \$50 per credit hour for programs that culminate in either the earning of a certificate, or an associate's or bachelor's degree. For veterans to be eligible to participate in the program, they must have served in armed combat after Sept. 11, 2001, been a Missouri resident when they first entered the military, and been discharged from their service under honorable conditions.



Looks like little Landen is already considering a job in politics, knowing there are new discoveries around every corner.



Sen. Scott with wife Donna and three their grandsons (left to right) Clay, Brennan, and Landen at the Governor's Mansion.

Senate Bill 1038 — Repeals campaign contribution limits and **changes campaign fund reporting requirements** by mandating that campaign contributions be electronically filed within 48 hours of receiving the contribution if it exceeds \$5,000.

Senate Bill 1105 — Creates a check-off box on Missouri individual and corporate income tax forms for **contributions to the Breast Cancer Awareness Trust Fund**.

Senate Bill 1139 — **Establishes a state first-person consent organ and tissue donor registry**. Any individual who agrees to have his or her name on the registry gives full legal consent to the donation of any of his or her organs or tissues upon death. Missourians are under no

obligation to add their names to the registry and may withdraw their consent to donate at any time.

House Bill 1384 — Allows consumers who suspect they are victims of **identity theft** to request a “security freeze” or lock on their credit file to prevent anyone from trying to receive credit, loans or services in their name. Consumers would then be able to temporarily lift, or “thaw,” freezes when they want to make use of their own credit files, such as when applying for credit or loans. It also specifies that identity theft victims have the right to contact local law enforcement and request that an incident report regarding the identity theft be prepared and filed.

House Bill 2034 — An omnibus bill that relates to weapons will protect owners of firearm ranges by shielding them from civil and criminal liability for noise emission. Another major provision **removes residency requirements for concealed carry permits**. Before passage of this bill, new residents had to live in Missouri for six months before they could receive a permit. House Bill 2034 waives the six-month requirement for those who already have a valid permit from another state. It also closes the records of those who filed with their county sheriff to receive a concealed carry permit, makes it a Class C felony for any felon to possess any firearm, and further defines “explosive weapons.”

House Bill 2224 — Many county sheriff deputies will receive better pay under this measure. The bill allows sheriff offices to receive an additional \$10 fee for processing any civil summons, writ, subpoena or other court order. This money will go to the newly created “Deputy Sheriff Salary Supplementation Fund,” which will be used to **bolster the pay of county deputy sheriffs**. The average pay for county deputies is slightly more than \$22,000, with most taking home only about \$15,500 each year — putting those with families below the federal poverty line.

House Bill 2393 — An **economic development bill** that creates a “mega-project” component under the Enhanced Enterprise Zone program, which provides tax credit incentives for companies to locate to Missouri. Companies that qualify as a mega-project would be allowed an income tax credit equal to a percentage of its new annual payroll for employees. To qualify, the company’s investment must be projected to exceed \$300 million and create at least 1,000 new jobs over a period of eight years. The measure caps tax credits at \$240 million in an eight-year period and requires the company to repay any tax credits issued by the state.



Sen. Scott at the Dallas County Fair joined by two county fair participants.

*“Righteousness exalteth a nation.”
— Proverbs 14:34, etched in the
State Capitol Rotunda*

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Claire McCaskill
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Ike Skelton*
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Roy Blunt*
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*may/will change
January 2009

PROMOTING SAFETY ON MISSOURI'S WATERS

The phrase “drunk driving” is often related to those intoxicated individuals who take their lives — and the lives of others — in their own hands behind the wheel on Missouri roadways. However, this serious problem doesn't just happen on asphalt.

This session I filed a bill, (later added to a House bill that has since been signed by the governor into law), to help curtail excessive drinking on our state's waters. House Bill 1715 strengthens several regulations relating to watercraft operation in Missouri, primarily with regard to alcohol consumption policies for those operating a watercraft. For example, an individual with a blood alcohol content of .08, rather than the current .10, would commit the crime of operating a vessel with excessive blood alcohol content under my legislation. Lowering the state's legal blood-alcohol content for boaters from .10 to .08 percent makes it the same threshold for Missouri motorists. If you're too drunk to drive on our roadways, you are too drunk to drive on our waters.

The blood alcohol provision in House Bill 1715 only relates to watercraft operating on certain lakes in the state, as well as the Mississippi River, and the Missouri River. The measure expands the law to include all Missouri bodies of water in many instances, such as the “negligent operation of a vessel” statute. House Bill 1715 applies a universal speed limit of 30 m.p.h. for watercraft between sunset and sunrise. The bill also toughens the charges of criminal negligence that results in death caused by a person operating a watercraft.



TAX RELIEF FOR MISSOURI'S SENIORS

Our state has programs established to help Missourians who are living on fixed incomes afford their homes. The General Assembly recently passed legislation that allows more seniors in this state to utilize these programs, lessening the burden on our elderly residents.

The Homestead Preservation Tax Credit program allows eligible senior citizens and disabled homeowners to receive a credit on their real estate property taxes if those taxes increased by a set percentage. Qualified participants include those whose federal adjusted gross income did not exceed \$77,323 and whose property taxes increased by 2.5 percent in a non-reassessment (even-numbered) or 5 percent in a reassessment (odd-numbered) year. Applicants must apply every year in order to receive the annual tax credit, which is applied against real estate taxes in the following year.

Another important program in our state is the Property Tax Credit Claim, which helps elderly and disabled residents who might have trouble paying taxes on their homes. The program allows these residents to receive a credit on their tax bill for the property taxes or rent that they have paid over the past year. The actual credit is based on the amount of real estate taxes or rent paid and your total household income.

Legislation passed in 2008 increases assistance to \$1,100 for senior and disabled homeowners. The income eligibility for homeowners also increases to \$30,000 for singles and \$34,000 for married couples. Taxpayers can only receive one of the credits each year — either the Missouri Property Tax Credit Claim or the Homestead Preservation Tax Credit. You should determine which tax credit program is more beneficial to you before you file for either credit. For more information on the programs, taxpayers can call the Missouri Department of Revenue at (866) 433-7259 or go online at www.dor.mo.gov.

PASSING A FISCALLY-RESPONSIBLE BUDGET

With a constitutionally-mandated budget deadline of May 9, 2008, the Missouri Senate worked diligently to pass the core budget bills, not only on time, but ahead of schedule and balanced. The final budget includes increased funding for K-12 schools, public colleges and universities, transportation, agriculture, and health care, among other areas.

House Bills 2002 through 2013, along with HB 2001 (passed in April), comprise the state budget for fiscal year 2009 (which began July 1, 2008) and each allocate funds to specific programs and departments. For instance, HB 2002 appropriates money to elementary and secondary education, and provides a \$121.3 million increase to fully fund the state's Foundation Formula. The bill also increases funding for the A+ Schools Program by \$3.5 million. House Bill 2003, the higher education budget bill, allocates an additional \$43 million to help fund Missouri's public two- and four-year colleges and universities and a \$48.7 million increase for the Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program.

Other highlights of this year's proposed budget include a 3 percent cost-of-living adjustment for state employees, and a \$483.3 million increase in funding for the Department of Transportation's construction program to maintain our roads and other transit infrastructure. The budget also includes \$1.5 million for sheltered workshop programs, and a \$500,000 increase for the Area Agency on Aging, which provides home-delivered meals. Funding for health care services, such as an additional \$7.4 million for autism services and \$13 million to provide better access to health care for low-income women, was also included in the overall \$22.4 billion budget.

DISTRIBUTION OF EACH TAX DOLLAR FY 2009 MISSOURI OPERATING BUDGET ALL FUNDS: \$22.4 BILLION



*Revenue, Office of Administration, Elected Officials, General Assembly, Real Estate

Source: Senate Appropriations Committee

STATE DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Conservation
573-751-4115

Corrections
573-751-2389

Economic Development
573-751-4962

Elementary and Secondary Education
573-751-4212

Health and Senior Services
573-751-6400

Higher Education
573-751-2361

Insurance, Financial Institutions & Professional Registration
573-751-4126

Labor & Industrial Relations
573-751-9691

Mental Health
573-751-4122

Natural Resources
573-751-3443

Public Safety
573-751-4905

Revenue
573-751-4905

Social Services
573-751-4815

Transportation
573-751-2551

*Serving the citizens
of the 28th Senatorial District*



MISSOURI STATE SENATOR DELBERT SCOTT



Contact Senator Scott

My staff and I are available to answer questions or concerns you may have about the Missouri Legislature. Feel free to contact my Capitol office at **573-751-8793** and let us know how we can help you. We are located on the fourth floor of the Capitol in Room 416. You can also visit my Senate website: www.senate.mo.gov/scott



State Senator Delbert Scott

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