



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Wes Shoemyer
18th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 434
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**A Weekly Column for the
Week of August 18, 2008**

**Contact: Kathy Armstrong
(573) 751-7852**

Budget Items in the 18th

JEFFERSON CITY – As your representative in the Missouri State Senate, I spend a lot of time answering questions and responding to the concerns of the people of the 18th Senatorial District. That's one of things I most enjoy about this job – getting to meet and help the people who sent me to Jefferson City.

From a constitutional perspective, however, the most important duty of a state lawmaker is helping to craft and approve a balanced state budget each year. That's one of things I least enjoy about this job – having to make tough choices about spending priorities. My job is to make sure that the people, agencies and organizations in northeast Missouri get their fair share of the budget pie, but with limited state resources, there are always going to be worthy ideas or projects that cannot be funded.

With that in mind, I thought I would highlight some of the 18th District budget items in the Fiscal Year 2009 budget, including:

- \$101,962,215 for the School Foundation Formula
- \$45,161,510 for Truman State University
- \$15,911,183 for the Northeast Correctional Center
- \$14,083,507 for the Women's Eastern Reception Diagnostic Center
- \$7,789,175 for the Mexico Veterans Home
- \$5,521,617 for Moberly Community College (including the Jim Sears Center)
- \$1,710,053 for State Schools for the Severely Handicapped
- \$1,086,957 for Hannibal Regional Center
- \$767,008 for the Kirksville Regional Center

- \$475,000 for Clarence Cannon Dam
- \$401,582 for Thousand Hills State Park
- \$359,452 for Mark Twain State Park
- \$288,669 for Wakonda State Park
- \$171,732 for Battle of Athens State Historic Site
- \$139,706 for Mark Twain Birthplace State Historic Site/Union Covered Bridge
- \$25,000 for the Kirksville Innovation Center; and
- \$2,220 for the Iliniwek Village State Historic Site.

The \$22.4 billion state budget for FY 2009 also includes spending for capital improvements in northeast Missouri, including:

- \$1,144,180 for Hannibal Vocational Technical Center
- \$725,000 for the Mexico Vocational Technical Center; and
- \$296,000 for Hannibal Commercial Drivers Licensing.

The senators and representatives who are mainly responsible for crafting the state budget each year typically begin their work in December by holding public hearings in Jefferson City. That would be the time to present your budget request directly to the decision makers. Of course, you can always contact my staff or me to pitch your budget proposals and we will forward them to the members of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

This is also back-to-school time for most students, so I just want to remind everyone to use caution when driving in school zones and to keep an eye out for the little ones as they head to or leave school each day.

If you have any questions or comments about this or any other issue, give my Capitol office a call at (573) 751-7852, send me an email at wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov, or drop a line to Room 434, State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.