



Office of
Jason Crowell State
Senator

The Crowell Connection



Senator Jason Crowell – Serving Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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Funding for Southeast Missouri

Last week, the General Assembly approved the 13 bills that make up Missouri's budget for fiscal year 2009, which begins on July 1. This \$22.4 billion budget focuses on fiscal responsibility and includes sensible increases to programs and services used by Missourians. Also, as part of the spending plan, the Legislature passed House Bill 2023, the capital improvements spending bill. During the appropriations process, I was able to secure funding for many projects in Southeast Missouri.



Alma Schrader 4th graders visited Senator Crowell in Jefferson City April 24, 2008.

Education is my highest priority. Three years ago, we passed a new funding formula for our elementary and secondary education schools. This foundation formula is being phased in over six years, and we were able to fully fund the foundation formula this year. The public schools in Bollinger, Cape Girardeau,

Madison, Mississippi, Scott, and Perry counties will receive a 3.53 percent increase over last year's funding, for a total of \$75 million.

This year's budget contains funding for Southeast Missouri State University and its satellite campuses as well. A total of \$48.6 million was appropriated to help Southeast Missouri State continue to provide a quality education to Missouri students, a 4.3 percent increase over last year. In addition, \$820,000 in capital improvements funding will go

towards projects at Southeast Missouri State University satellite campuses in the communities of Sikeston and Perryville. Of that funding, \$400,000 will go towards paying for the expansion at Southeast Missouri State University-Sikeston and \$420,000 will go towards renovations at the Perryville Higher Education Center, a collaborative effort between Southeast Missouri State University and Mineral Area Community College.

As chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I remain dedicated to supporting our veterans. This includes making sure there is funding to support those veterans currently residing in one of Missouri's seven veterans' homes. This includes the Cape Girardeau Veterans' Home, which will receive \$7.8 million from the budget.

Autism is another major issue we continue to address in Missouri. The number of families affected by autism has increased over recent years, and I am dedicated to making sure these families have the resources they need. The State of Missouri Division of Workforce Development will receive \$200,000 in funding for the Tailor Institute.



Senator Crowell participates in the ribbon cutting ceremony at The Judevine Center for Autism in Cape Girardeau.

This will help with autistic individuals who want to join the workforce. Last year, we passed the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative, which included \$2.638 million for a new Southeast Missouri Autism Center. This center will provide diagnosis, treatment, education, and research in autism for patients in Southeast Missouri. The FY 2009 budget includes an additional \$480,000 for the center.

Other funding for Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Scott, and Perry counties include:

- \$2.1 million for state schools for the severely handicapped.
- \$149,831 for Bollinger Mill State Historic Site.
- \$389,016 for Trail of Tears State Park.
- \$109,680 for Big Oak Tree State Park

- \$5,515 for Towosahgy State Historic Site.
- \$224,497 for the Ft. Davidson Historic Site (also for Elephant Rock State Park).
- \$225,000 for the Southeast Missouri Innovation Center.
- \$12.3 million for the Southeast Correctional Center.
- \$978,661 for the Sikeston Regional Center.
- \$3.3 million for the Cottonwood Residential Treatment Center.

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at <http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.

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