



WEEKLY REPORT

State Senator Gary Nodler
District 32



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Week of May 5, 2008

Appropriations to Benefit Dade County

This week, my colleagues and I completed work on a balanced state budget, which now moves to the governor for his signature. As an elected official, I am responsible for the interests of all of my constituents, whether in communities large or small. While helping to craft the state spending plan, I have not forgotten the priorities of the communities of Dade County.

The \$22.4 billion budget contained in House Bills 2001-2013 demonstrates fiscal caution while still accommodating necessary expansions to areas such as education and agriculture. My colleagues and I are aware that this money does not belong to the government, but to the taxpayers, which is why the budget was crafted in a fiscally responsible manner featuring sensible increases to programs and services used by Missourians.

Elementary and secondary education receives a 2.4 percent increase for a total appropriation of \$5.3 billion. Three years ago, the state began to use a new funding formula in order to appropriate money to local school districts based on student need, not property value. The plan, which is being phased in throughout the next six years, gives each district a specific amount per each student. Schools in Dade County will receive approximately \$4.4 million, based on enrollment totals in previous years.

The Department of Agriculture will see an 8.2 percent increase with a total budget of \$76.7 million. This includes \$142,803 to expand animal health disease control programs. The department runs several disease control programs for cattle, swine, and poultry. The budget also includes increased funding for meat and poultry inspection. An increase of \$161,036 will go towards this program, which is geared towards smaller producers. The program makes it easier for these farms to have their products inspected and, in turn, creates more profits for the producer.

We are constitutionally charged to create a state budget each year and, as chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, it is a duty I take seriously. The state spending plan decides where your money

goes, and I assure you that it is going to places that will benefit the people of Dade County and all Missourians.

*Senator Gary Nodler represents the people of Newton, Jasper
and Dade counties in the Missouri Senate.*