



Senator Jim Lembke
1st Senate District

MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

Capitol Building, Room 428
Jefferson City, MO 65101

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 30, 2009

Senator Jim Lembke Highlights Successes from First Half of Legislative Session

General Assembly Begins Second Half Ready to Work on State Budget

JEFFERSON CITY — State Sen. Jim Lembke, R-St. Louis, says many achievements have been made during the first 10 weeks of the First Regular Session of the 95th General Assembly. Most of those have focused on eliminating government waste and protecting our financial security.

“We came into this year knowing the economy wasn’t at its best,” Sen. Lembke said. “We have managed to take a negative situation and turn it into an opportunity, but we still have a lot of work to do.”

Senator Lembke points to a measure he is co-sponsoring this year as one that would end St Louis County’s arbitrary and predatory property tax assessment process. [Senate Joint Resolution 5](#) would require all county assessors to be elected, with the exception of Jackson County’s assessor. If approved, the proposal would go to the people for approval. Senator Lembke also supports [Senate Bill 99](#), which seeks to establish the predictable property tax act. This would limit assessments and keep counties from raising home values unnecessarily under the guise of raising revenues.

Early in the legislative session, Sen. Lembke carried and helped pass [House Concurrent Resolution 5](#), which stopped elected officials from taking a pay raise. “This was not the year for a raise,” Sen. Lembke said. “We don’t have the money for it and it would simply send the wrong message to take a pay raise while people are losing their jobs.”

Without the resolution, elected officials would have received an automatic pay raise based upon recommendations made by the [Missouri Citizens' Commission on Compensation for Elected Officials](#).

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In early March, Sen. Lembke was joined by a group of concerned parents and legislators to answer questions about his [Senate Bill 439](#), which would allow schools to buy school buildings for sale instead of closing them and leaving them vacant. Currently, 12 of 15 public schools that are set to open are still looking for a facility to use while St. Louis Public Schools has seven buildings for sale and 22 that are empty.

“If the St. Louis Public Schools have so much money that they can afford to close schools and not sell them, then maybe we should be looking at their overall budget in the interests of the taxpayers who own the property,” Sen. Lembke said. “These taxpayer buildings are becoming a blight on the community and I call upon the city schools to end their discriminatory practices for the good of the children.”

Senator Lembke was appointed to serve on several committees. He is co-chair of the [Senate Governmental Accountability and Fiscal Oversight Committee](#) and the [Senate Ways and Means Committee](#). Senator Lembke also sits on the Senate [Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and the Environment Committee](#); [Financial and Governmental Organizations and Elections Committee](#); [Jobs, Economic Development and Local Government Committee](#); [Job Creation 2020 Committee](#); and the [Missouri Energy Task Force](#).

“It is a privilege to serve, in the Senate on these crucial committees,” Sen. Lembke said. “Our task is simple: to meet the challenges we face and see to it government stays out of the way and out of our pockets.”

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