



Senator Jim Lembke
1st Senate District

MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

Capitol Building, Room 428
Jefferson City, MO 65101

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Senator Jim Lembke Pleased St. Louis Public Schools Rescind Deed Restriction Policy

Decision to Change Buildings Policy a Win-Win for Taxpayers

JEFFERSON CITY — State Sen. Jim Lembke, R-St. Louis, applauds the St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS) for their decision to change their deed restriction policy. The district has dozens of unused buildings and, under current policy, is not allowed to sell them to any other public or private schools. Currently, 12 of 15 charter schools that are set to open are still looking for a facility to use while SLPS has seven buildings for sale and 22 that are empty.

“I am glad to see the St. Louis Public Schools reverse course,” Sen. Lembke said. “Other concerned citizens and lawmakers came out in force a few weeks ago. Since then, the tide has turned and common sense has prevailed.”

Senator Lembke introduced [Senate Bill 439](#), which would eliminate restrictive deeds either in existence or from being started by school districts. In early March, a group — led by Sen. Lembke — held a news conference outside an abandoned elementary school in North St. Louis. Among the lawmakers who attended the news conference was Sen. Jeff Smith, D-St. Louis, with whom Sen. Lembke has been working closely on trying to get the SLPS to change its deed restriction policies. Since that time, the St. Louis Board of Education has worked to change existing policy.

“This is the best route to take for our children, our communities and the taxpayers of St. Louis,” Sen. Lembke said. “Now, these buildings will have the opportunity to become anchors within the community as opposed to blights upon them.”

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