



MISSOURI SENATE

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Senator Jeff Smith to Receive the 2009 Legislative Award Presented by the St. Louis Business Journal

JEFFERSON CITY — Senator Jeff Smith, D-St. Louis, who was the top defender of the state's Historic Preservation Tax Credits and who introduced legislation to launch angel tax credits to spur investment in early-stage companies, will receive the 2009 Legislative Award from the *St. Louis Business Journal*.

Senator Smith was recognized for his work to advance the agenda of the St. Louis region, including his major contribution to the session's economic development bill ([HB 191](#)). Senator Smith fought for months on the Senate floor to prevent the dismantling of the Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program. In the final days of session, he worked with lawmakers to reach a reasonable compromise sustaining the program, which is a national model. It stimulates investment and job creation in urban cores, residential neighborhoods and small towns across the state through the reuse of buildings with historical and architectural significance. As these credits bring once-abandoned buildings back onto the tax rolls, revitalizing struggling areas, they help reduce sprawl and conserve resources by concentrating development in areas with existing infrastructure.

Senator Smith also passed several other legislative priorities, including measures pertaining to criminal non-support and paternity determinations. He provided innovative solutions for helping fathers meet their child support obligations and groundbreaking reforms to paternity law in Senate Bills [140](#) and [141](#), respectively.



Sen. Jeff Smith

Inspired by the successful “fathering court” in Jackson County, Sen. Smith sponsored legislation allowing courts dealing with criminal non-support cases to assign nonviolent offenders to educational, vocational, or job training. The measure will allow successful participants to have criminal penalties dismissed or reduced if they resume child support payments. This measure will help unemployed men return to the work force, enabling them to pay child support and reconnect with their children.

Senator Smith’s other 2009 legislative accomplishments include establishing the Missouri Preschool Project — a pilot program that will provide \$5 million to fund early childhood education programs for approximately 1,300 impoverished children in unaccredited school districts such as St. Louis. He also wrote and co-sponsored innovative legislation creating a merit pay option for St. Louis public school teachers. Both proposals were incorporated into the Legislature's wide-ranging education bill ([SB 291](#)).

“I’m honored to be recognized by the Business Journal,” Sen. Smith said. “Every major initiative I passed required bipartisan support, and I thank my colleagues who helped in ways both large and small.”

Senator Smith will be recognized during an awards ceremony on Friday, June 19, at the Old Post Office, 815 Olive St., in St. Louis.

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