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Senator Robin Wright-Jones



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## Budget Items for the 5<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

Work on our state's FY 2010 operating budget began back in December 2008. [House Bills 1-13](#) make up the budget and each of these contain different state departments and programs. These constitutionally-mandated bills range from tackling our public debt to providing funding for education and transportation in our state.

The [Senate Appropriations](#)



General Assembly Approves  
\$23.1 State Operating Budget

Committee is charged with working with these budget items. Hundreds of hours have been spent by members of this committee since late last year. Members worked hard to calculate how each department and program would receive its state funding.

This year, safeguards were set in place to make sure every penny received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is accounted for. Senate Bill 313 creates two separate funds within our state treasury to receive and retain these specific federal funds. Any money our state receives that is marked to replace general revenue would be deposited into the "Federal Budget Stabilization Fund." Additional funds received under the act would be deposited into the "Federal Stimulus Fund."

Tough economic times in our state reflected how my colleagues in the House and Senate debated how our state's dollars were going to be spent. The General Assembly had to be resourceful in determining how to fund projects that benefit those who live, work, and visit our state.

Below you will find a graphic representing how each of your state tax dollars is spent.

### DISTRIBUTION OF EACH TAX DOLLAR

FY 2010 Missouri Operating Budget  
All Funds: \$23.110 Billion

1 – Public Debt (0.40¢)

2 – Judiciary, Public Safety & Corrections (6.08¢)

3 – Health & Mental Health (9.11¢)

4 – All Other Agencies\* (4.52¢)

5 – Economic Development, Labor & Insurance (2.19¢)

6 – Agriculture, Conservation & Natural Resources (2.29¢)

7 – Social Services (32.34¢)

8 – Employee Benefits (4.13¢)



\* Revenue, Office of Administration, Elected Officials, General Assembly, and Real Estate

## Major Legislation On Its Way to Becoming Law

More than 575 measures were filed this session in the Senate. Since the first day of session on Jan. 7, lawmakers in the General Assembly have worked diligently to serve their constituents in their districts.

Priorities this session included economic development, expanding health care coverage, strengthening consumer protections, and making sure Missouri students have the opportunity to receive a college education.

One of the bills I sponsored this session, which is on its way to become law, was [Senate Bill 179](#). My bill authorizes Governor Nixon to transfer a plot of land now being used by the Department of Corrections to the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission. This land conveyance is a crucial element in paving the way for the [new Mississippi River Bridge project](#) in St. Louis.

Two bills I signed on to co-sponsor that address family and child support issues have also been approved by the General Assembly. [Senate Bill 140](#) allows non-violent defendants in criminal non-support

9 – Highways & Transportation (9.81¢)

10 – Desegregation Settlement (0.04¢)

11 – Elementary & Secondary Education (23.43¢)

12 – Higher Education (5.66¢)

\* Revenue, Office of Administration, Elected Officials, General Assembly, and Real Estate



### Features of the Proposed Bridge Design:

- Four lane cable stayed bridge type
- 96 foot overall roadway desk width

SB 179 Effective Date:  
Upon governor's signature



cases to receive education, vocational training, a work program assignment and/or substance abuse treatment, in an effort to encourage them to resume their child support payments. Successful completion of these court-ordered programs or resuming support payments may reduce or dismiss the charges or penalties against the defendant.

And a measure I sponsored in the Senate that would create physical education requirements for sixth through twelfth grades was added to a wide-ranging bill dealing with education. Senate Bill 291 contains more than 30 provisions covering teaching standards for public schools all the way to Parents' Bill of Rights. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, my provision would:

- Ensure that students in elementary schools participate in moderate physical activity for the entire school year for an average of 150 minutes per week, or thirty minutes per day.
- Middle school students may, at the school's discretion, participate in at least 225 minutes of physical activity per week.
- Elementary school students must be provided a minimum of one recess period of 20 minutes per day, which can be incorporated into the lunch period.
- Students with disabilities must participate to the extent appropriate.

Several bills sponsored by my colleagues in the Legislature are also on their way to the governor's desk.

- Senate Bill 147 is also on its way to the governor. The bill

**SB 140 Effective Date:  
August 28, 2009**



**SB 291 Effective Date:  
August 28, 2009  
(most provisions)**

requires the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health to develop the Missouri Healthy Workplace Recognition Program for the purpose of granting official state recognition to employers with more than 50 employees for excellence in promoting health, wellness, and prevention.

- A bill relating to crime victims, Senate Bill 338, also awaits the governor's signature. The measure establishes procedures for the compensation of forensic examinations for sexual assault victims. It also allows, upon the victim's request, a photograph to be taken on the incarcerated individual prior to release and given to the crime victim.
- House Bill 156 was a bill that initially started out as a measure that would provide supplemental food stamp assistance for elderly citizens in Missouri. During the last day of session, senators added many of the more than 35 provisions found in Senate Bill 306 (a bill that would establish the Show-Me Health Coverage plan and modify provisions relating to health care services) to House Bill 156. The House health care measure would expand much-needed health care to more than 35,000 working Missourians.
- The last day of session also included passage of House Bill 191, this session's economic development legislation. The measure addresses job creation and tax credit reform in our state. One tax credit



SB 147 Effective Date:  
August 28, 2009



SB 338 Effective Date:  
August 28, 2009



HB 156 Effective Date:  
Upon governor's signature

found in House Bill 191 was the Historic Preservation Tax Credit. This specific tax credit program provides our state's citizens with a true value of Missouri's history and historic properties. The Historic Preservation Tax Credit program also grants citizens a tool to attract heritage tourism in our state, which can result in new jobs and added revenue for the individual municipalities, counties, and ultimately, our state.

Throughout the interim (the time span between legislative sessions) I'll keep you updated periodically on major issues affecting the 5<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District, including bills that are signed into law by the governor and when these bills are enacted.

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### Honoring Those Who Have Given the Ultimate Sacrifice This Memorial Day

Memorial Day is Monday, May 25 this year, and we should take this time to honor those who have given their lives to ensure the freedom that we celebrate today.

There are several events around the St. Louis area scheduled to pay tribute to our nation's veterans. There will be a ceremony at [Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery](#), a free patriotic concert in [Tower Grove Park](#), and one of our country's oldest Memorial Day parades just across the river in Alton, Illinois.

I ask you to join your fellow St. Louis citizens and celebrate our country, the patriotism we all share, and those who made our



**HB 191 Effective Date:  
Upon governor's signature**



#### **Memorial Day Events:**

**Memorial Day Service  
Jefferson Barracks  
National Cemetery  
2900 Sheridan Road  
9:45 a.m.**

**Memorial Day Parade  
Alton, Illinois  
Begins at College & Washington**

lives possible by their commitment to our nation.

**"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13** (New American Standard Bible)

10:00 a.m.

Memorial Day Concert  
Compton Heights Concert Band  
Tower Grove Park  
3:00 p.m.

Memorial Day Ceremony  
O'Fallon, Missouri  
Veterans Memorial Walk  
11:00 a.m.

If you would like to read more about the bills my colleagues and I work on for the people of Missouri, please visit [www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

And to find out more information about the issues mentioned in this column or other matters involving state government, please feel free to contact my office.



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