

MISSOURI SENATE

Jane Cunningham 7th Senate District

JEFFERSON CITY

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(573) 751-1186 Senator Jane Cunningham Offers Constituents Key Legislative Updates through Online Video News Releases

Chesterfield Senator Highlights Predictable Property Tax Act, Updates Constituents on St. Louis-Area Highway Projects and Shares Impassioned Story Behind 'Child Witness Protection Act'

JEFFERSON CITY — In an effort to keep District 7 constituents up-to-date and informed on key legislative issues, State Sen. Jane Cunningham, R-Chesterfield, has created and posted several video news releases on her Senate Web site to highlight major issues of concern to St. Louis Countians.

In these video news releases, Sen. Cunningham discusses her Predictable Property Tax proposal (<u>Senate Bill 99</u>) to overhaul Missouri's current property tax system and highlights the progress of local transportation projects impacted by federal stimulus funding, including Highway 141. In addition, she shares from the Senate floor the emotional story that served as the motivation for <u>House Bill 863</u> — legislation recently passed by the General Assembly and advanced by Sen. Cunningham in the Senate — that seeks to enact uniform guidelines for the treatment of child witnesses in Missouri courts.

"My purpose in creating these videos is to stay in 'real time' communication with my constituents and to keep them apprised of issues affecting St. Louis County," Sen. Cunningham said.

In a video news release regarding SB 99, Sen. Cunningham discusses her highest legislative priority — overhauling and streamlining the property tax process to empower homeowners and bring fairness to the system.

"The streamlined process I'm proposing would be fair, reliable, manageable and predictable — characteristics that are all missing from the present process," Sen. Cunningham said. "Even if this major reform does not advance during this legislative session, it will remain my top priority."

In her transportation-themed video news release, Sen. Cunningham highlights the progress of three local transportation projects that have received federal stimulus funding for project portions: the 141 project from 64 to Olive, the Page-Olive Connector, and the Page Avenue extension to St. Charles.

"The completion of major area transportation projects is vital for safe travel and the economic health of our area and I intend to keep my constituents informed as these important projects unfold," Sen. Cunningham said.

A third video news release captures Sen. Cunningham's floor debate on House Bill 863 in which she shares the emotional story of a young crime victim's court testimony that served as the impetus for creating the "Child Witness Protection Act."

"I had the opportunity to see the video of this young girl's heart wrenching testimony and appalling treatment as a child witness and I am very pleased that Missouri is taking steps to offer more protections for children who have been victims of violent crimes," Sen. Cunningham said.

To view Sen. Cunningham's news releases, go to <u>www.senate.mo.gov/cunningham</u> and click on the video links.