



State Senator

Rita Heard Days

District 14



Column For Week of: May 18, 2009

Website | Biography

General Assembly Passes Annual State Budget

*How Our State's Budget Works for the 14th Senatorial
District and the Surrounding St. Louis Area*

The General Assembly recently passed the FY 2010 operating budget. With a constitutionally mandated budget deadline of May 8, 2009, my colleagues and I worked diligently for the citizens we represent in our district to create a fiscally responsible budget. House Bills 1 through 13 comprise the state budget for FY 2010 (which begins July 1, 2009). These House bills allocate funds to specific state programs and departments. For example, House Bill 2 appropriates money to elementary and secondary education and House Bill 11 allocates funds to the Department of Social Services.

The FY 2010 budget contained a \$63 million increase for our state's school foundation formula while fully funding the formula for the fourth year in a row. The budget also included an increase in higher education funding. Our state's 2010 operating budget includes approximately \$768.5 million set aside for education in the St. Louis area, including \$674.5 million for K-12 schools, \$50.1 million for St. Louis Community College (\$1 million for maintenance and repair), and \$10.9 for Harris Stowe-State University (\$513,869 for one-time funding).

Funding for health care services was also included in the overall budget. A portion of the 2010 operating budget for the St. Louis area regarding health care services includes \$20.3 million for the St. Louis Psychiatric Rehabilitation Center, \$18.6 million for the St. Louis Developmental Disabilities Treatment Center, \$15.1 million for the Metro St. Louis Psychiatric Center, and \$16.2 million for the St. Louis Veterans Home.

The St. Louis area received funding for state historic sites, parks, and other

recreational items. Historic sites include the Scott Joplin House State Historic Site (\$223,722), the First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site (\$201,372), Mastodon State Historic Site (\$292,946), and Sandy Creek Covered Bridge State Historic Site (\$11,189). St. Louis area parks receiving funding include Babler State Park (\$682,400), Cuivre River State Park (\$570,532), Castlewood State Park (\$178,192), Route 66 State Park (\$257,614), and Confluence Point State Park (\$135,679). The Regional Convention & Sports Complex Authority (Dome) received \$12 million.

Funding in the budget was also designated toward projects that will create jobs and improve our state's infrastructure. It also included the largest budget reserve totaling \$966 million for spending in future budget years.

For more information on funding for the 14th Senatorial District, or if you have comments or questions about any other matter involving state government, please feel free to contact my offices at the numbers below.

If you would like to read more on important measures my colleagues and I worked on in the General Assembly for the citizens of our state, visit www.senate.mo.gov and then click on Senate Newsroom. You can even subscribe to receive this great legislative resource, which is updated regularly throughout the interim (the time between legislative sessions).

If you have comments or questions about any other matter involving state government, please feel free to contact my Capitol or district office.

*Senator Rita Heard Days represents a portion of
St. Louis County in the Missouri Senate.*



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