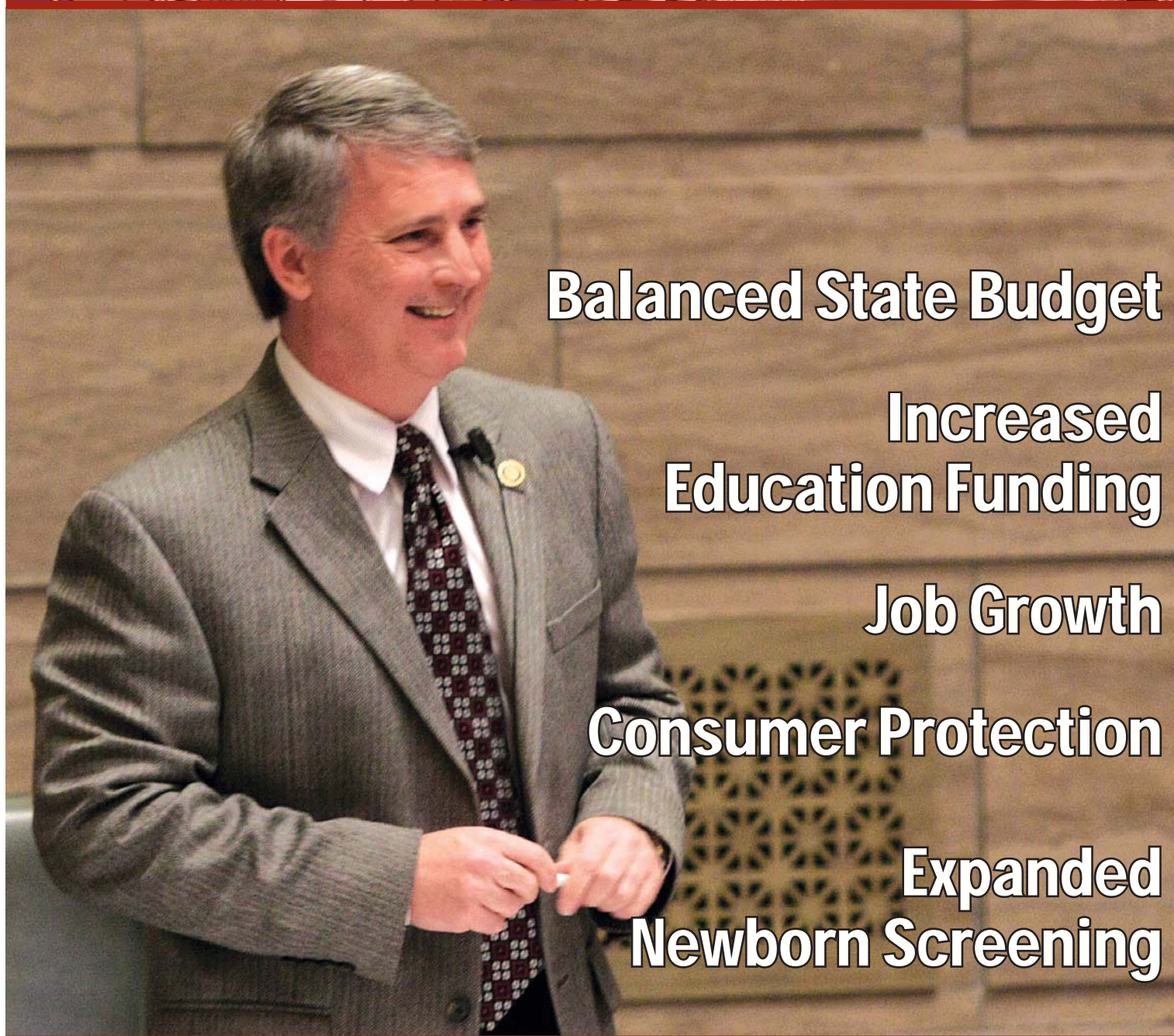




State Senator

ROB Mayer



Balanced State Budget

**Increased
Education Funding**

Job Growth

Consumer Protection

**Expanded
Newborn Screening**

LEGISLATIVE REPORT 2009

STATE SENATOR ROB MAYER

Committee Memberships

- Education, Chair
- Appropriations, Vice Chair
- Agriculture, Food Production and Outdoor Resources
- Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence
- Joint Committee on Education
- Joint Committee on Capital Improvements and Leases Oversight
- Educational Commission of the States

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Dear Friends,

The 2009 Legislative Session ended with a number of successes as my colleagues and I in the General Assembly worked to create policies that benefit Missourians throughout the state.

This was a challenging and unique year unlike any I have ever experienced in Jefferson City. As the Senate Appropriations Vice-Chairman, I worked hard to make sure that we crafted a state budget that is fiscally responsible, continues to include savings for the future, and appropriately spends the one-time federal stimulus monies. In spite of the challenges of a weakened economy, we succeeded in passing a \$23.1 billion budget that increases funding for education at all levels — without a tax increase — and protects taxpayers with a nearly \$800 million reserve for spending in future budget years. For the fourth year in a row, we also increased funding for higher education in support of our state's commitment to ensure our future workforce is the most educated in the nation.

We were also able to make progress for Missouri through other legislation. On the final day of the legislative session, we passed a bipartisan effort to expand tax incentive programs geared to spur job creation coupled with common-sense tax credit reforms aimed at protecting taxpayers.

Regarding education, I am very pleased that lawmakers passed comprehensive education reform legislation that includes my proposal to change the state's school funding formula so that money derived from the passage of Proposition A last November by Missouri voters will go to students in the classroom as intended. The legislation also includes my initiative to remove the current 5 percent growth cap so schools can continue to receive this increased funding.

As your state senator, I am focused on finding ways to improve our area. In this newsletter, I outline many of the laws and fiscal policies that are directly helping Southeast Missouri. It is an honor to represent the 25th Senate District, and I look forward to continuing my service to you. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.



State Senator Rob Mayer Represents Butler, Dunklin, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley, Stoddard and Wayne counties.

Sen. Rob Mayer - Capitol Report - Page 2

EDUCATION

The General Assembly passed a progressive, wide-ranging education bill — Senate Bill 291 — that I helped advance as chairman of the Senate Education Committee. It will benefit Missouri school districts, students and teachers and supports our state's commitment to keeping education our number one priority.

It included my proposal that money derived from the passage of Proposition A (removal of loss limits for state casinos) last November by Missouri voters will go to students in Missouri classrooms for early childhood services, teacher salaries and transportation. This will mean tens of millions of dollars more for education and add an average of \$120 per pupil for each school district. My proposal also allows for the removal of the current 5 percent growth cap on school funding, which will allow state funds to flow more quickly to school districts through the school formula and allow hold harmless districts to receive additional state funds.

Many progressive measures to benefit Missouri

students and our state's elementary and secondary education system were included in the bill, including: developing performance standards for teachers; the option of allowing school districts to adopt a four-day school week; creating a method of obtaining teacher certification for individuals to teach in the areas of banking or financial responsibility; expanding virtual classrooms; and creating a non-profit P-20 Council to create a more efficient education system for grades P (preschool) to 20 (post secondary) to adequately prepare Missouri students for entering the workforce. A measure

I introduced regarding open enrollment was referred to a legislative committee, which will make recommendations by next year.

I am also pleased to report the General Assembly increased funding for education at all levels — without a tax increase. For the fourth year in a row, we increased funding for higher education to help ensure our future workforce is the best prepared in the nation.

"Education Remains Our State's Top Priority."

— Sen. Rob Mayer



SUCCESSFUL LEGISLATION ADVANCED BY SEN. MAYER

Senate Bill 263 — (incorporated into HB 485) — changes membership and quorum requirements for the Seismic Safety Commission.

Senate Bill 265 — extends the collection of the Statewide Court Automation fee until 2013.

Senate Bill 347 — (incorporated into HB 481) — enacts the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act.

Senate Bills 453 & 24 — (incorporated into SB 291) — changes the state's school funding formula to ensure money from Proposition A goes to Missouri classrooms and removes 5 percent growth cap so schools can continue to get this increased funding.

Senate Bill 307 — included a proposal by Sen. Mayer allowing hospital districts in certain counties, including

Ripley County, to abolish the hospital district property tax and impose a retail sales tax of up to one percent for the purpose of funding the hospital.

Senate Bill 293 — (co-sponsored bill incorporated into HB 93) — allows tractor parades on state roads.

House Bills Advanced in the Senate

House Bill 289 — removes the exception for expedited hearings and makes the five-day notice applicable to all special education due process hearings.

House Bill 682 — allows school districts hammered by inclement weather, including Malden, Kennett and Senath-Hornersville, to make up no more than 10 days.

House Bill 716 — expands newborn screening requirements to include screening for five life-threatening diseases, including Krabbe, Pompe, Gaucher, Niemann-Pick and Fabry disease.

SENATOR HELPS STOP DETRIMENTAL ENERGY BILL

A bill that would have allowed eligible power plants to charge customers through their utility rates for the cost of construction of certain types of clean energy plants — the most controversial and debated bill of the year — thankfully did not succeed in the General Assembly.

I strongly opposed the bill's proposals because of the devastating financial impact they would have had across southeast Missouri on our residential consumers, our agri-



Senator Mayer debated against proposed legislation that would have been detrimental to southeast Missouri.

cultural base, and to one of our area's largest employers.

The proposal would have increased the cost of electricity and passed that cost onto customers. In addition, the risk of a failed construction project would have been just too much, particularly in these challenging economic times. I just didn't believe it was the right thing to do.

Even though this highly contested legislation is off the table for now, it has sparked more energy discussion and will not end our state's pursuit of alternatives

to meet the emerging need for more energy production or to expand our renewable energy sources — and nuclear power will remain one of those options.

Discussion about our state's energy needs will remain a high priority as our state's lawmakers and energy producers work to move our state to cleaner forms of energy to address our future requirements. As this discussion continues, I feel confident we will develop the best plan available for meeting those energy needs while protecting Missouri consumers.



SENATOR'S FIGHT TO PROTECT THE UNBORN CONTINUES

Major pro-life legislation designed to strengthen the informed consent requirements for women seeking an abortion made significant strides in the Missouri Senate this year, but failed to pass in the Missouri House when lawmakers on both sides could not reach consensus on the bill in the final days of the 2009 legislative session.

At the urging of Senate leadership to overturn a filibuster, I worked throughout the session to reach a compromise. Both my own bill (Senate Bill 264) and House Bills 46 & 434 would have strengthened informed consent requirements for abortions and created the crime of coercing an abortion.

Near the end of the Legislative session, I succeeded in getting a revised version of the House bill passed in the Senate by a vote of 25-7 after some senators expressed

concern that the bill's language would have criminalized parental advice to minors. I supported the slimmed-down bill because it would have required a woman to be given the opportunity to view her unborn child by ultrasound, hear the heartbeat, and implemented other increased protections for pregnant women and unborn children.

After the Senate's version of the bill passed, it moved to the House, which then voted to send the bill to conference, with the Senate insisting on a vote instead. With only hours remaining in the legislative session, time ran out before any further action was taken. While very disappointed that this legislation did not pass this year, I believe we came very close to reaching a reasonable solution on this complex and controversial issue and I remain committed to passing this important piece of legislation.

OTHER LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

Legislation to Stimulate Cancer Research

Once again, I sponsored legislation (SB 375) to provide protections for Missourians with cancer by requiring health insurers to cover patient costs for phase I clinical trials for cancer treatment. In 2006, I was successful in advancing legislation requiring health insurers to cover routine patient-care costs incurred as a result of phase II clinical trials for cancer treatment. While the proposed legislation for phase I clinical trials did not advance this year, I will continue my efforts to pass this vital piece of legislation.

Missouri Promise

The Missouri Promise program legislation I sponsored to expand the A+ scholarship fund to more high school graduates did not advance through the legislative process before time ran out.

I will work to pass this bill again next year to ensure Missouri families can realize their dreams of a higher education.

SE Missouri Farmer Water Rights Pursued

A Senate Committee passed my preventive measure (SB 556) that would have helped protect southeast Missouri farmers' access to vital groundwater for irrigating crops.

The legislation would have prohibited certain large users of water from unduly disrupting farm irrigation activities within the

Southeast Missouri Regional Water District. While the water-sharing practices have not posed a problem yet, it's very important to ensure access to groundwater and no interruption of customary irrigation activities in case the matter is ever challenged. I will revisit the bill during the next legislative session.



THE BUDGET BREAKDOWN

DISTRIBUTION OF EACH TAX DOLLAR

FY 2010 AFTER VETO MISSOURI OPERATING BUDGET

All Funds: \$23.087 Billion



* Revenue, Office of Administration, Elected Officials, General Assembly, Real Estate
Source: Senate Appropriations Committee

FUNDING FOR SOUTHEAST MISSOURI

K-12 Schools

Senate District 25 schools will receive approximately \$109.5 million for K-12 education.

Three Rivers Community College

Three Rivers Community College receives nearly \$4.8 million for operating expenses and \$1 million in federal stabilization funds for school improvements.

Poplar Bluff Regional Center

The Poplar Bluff Regional Center, which provides a network of care for persons with developmental disabilities, is set to receive \$894,000 for operating expenses.



**SEMO Area Health
Education Center**

SEMO AHEC

More than \$500,000 has been funded to Missouri's AHEC (Area Health Education Centers), which includes SEMO AHEC in Poplar Bluff.

State Schools for the Severely Handicapped

The four state schools in District 25 are set to receive nearly \$2.6 million in funding.

State Parks

Sam A. Baker State Park, Lake Wappapello State Park, Morris State Park and Hunter-Dawson State Park will receive a combined total of more than \$1 million in operating expenses.

Bloomfield Veterans Cemetery

The cemetery, which is among five state-supported veterans cemeteries in Missouri, will receive approximately \$424,000 for operating expenses.



**Bloomfield
Veterans Cemetery**

Rebuild Missouri Schools Program

Nearly \$5.3 million will go to the *Rebuild Missouri Schools Program*. Sen. Mayer initiated to help restore tornado damage to Caruthersville High School.



**Caruthersville
High School**

DUCK CREEK CONSERVATION AREA SET FOR RENOVATION

The Missouri Department of Conservation's Duck Creek Conservation Area, a major attraction in southeast Missouri for fishing, boaters, campers and duck hunters, is expected to receive approximately \$11 million in federal stabilization funds over the next few years for a major renovation to the area's wetlands.

Duck Creek is located in portions of Stoddard, Wayne and Bollinger counties and is a remnant of the bottomland hardwood forest that once covered southeastern Missouri. Part of the area lies in the foothills of the Ozarks with the majority in the former floodplain of the Mississippi River. The 6,234-acre area contains a wide variety of habitat types and supports an abundance of plant and animal species, many of which are unique to Missouri.

The wetland area is a major draw for duck hunters and therefore generates significant state and local tax revenues for southeast Missouri.

The federal stabilization funds sought for the project were specified for wetland restoration.



CAPITOL VISITORS



The Missouri Rice Council celebrated Rice Day at the state Capitol. Pictured, from left to right, are Greg Yielding, Sonny Martin, Andy Clark, Chris Berry, Sen. Mayer, Alex Clark, and Gary Murphy.



Scott and Margaret Andrews with twins, Grace and Annie, of Kennett visit with Sen. Mayer at the state Capitol.



Senator Mayer welcomed Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts and their leaders from Kennett to the state Capitol in February. Visiting Scout leaders (*not pictured*) were Gary Figgins, Robin McClellan, Melanie Foulkes, Bethany Britt, Cathy Faulkner, Connie Oldsen, Charolyn Hilburn, Beth Shetley, Dawn Henfling and Connie Gurley.



Senator Mayer greets award-winning artist and Bloomfield Middle School sixth-grader Nycole Born, and her family in his Capitol office.



Senator Mayer welcomed Ben Counce and students from Caruthersville Middle School to the Senate Chamber in February.



Principal Shannon Garner, teachers Amanda Sander and Amy Jansen and fifth graders from Advance Middle School made a trek to see the Capitol and chat with Sen. Mayer in May.

Sen. Mayer's 2009 Gubernatorial Appointments



Clockwise from left: Sen. Mayer with Daren Todd of Kennett, SEMO Board of Regents; Sen. Mayer with Doyle Privett of Kennett, SEMO Board of Regents; and Sen. Mayer with Rodger Owens of Wappapello, the Missouri State Safe Drinking Water Association.

Not pictured: Bruce Lynch of Poplar Bluff, Missouri Quality Home Care Council.

Capitol Visitors



Top: Brenda Hildrich, Naomi Yandell and Jim Swinger, of Poplar Bluff.

Bottom: Dexter residents Susan Hill and Heather Waddle visited with Sen. Mayer during a teachers association day in February.



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