



WEEKLY REPORT

State Senator Gary Nodler
District 32



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Week of May 4, 2009

Appropriations to Benefit Dade County

Each year, we are constitutionally obligated to complete work on Missouri's spending plan, and as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, much of my work throughout the session is centered on this goal. This year was a challenging budget year with tough economic factors, a misplaced effort by the federal government to bail out states, and fundamental disagreements between House and Senate members making an already intricate process problematic. I am pleased to report, however, that the budget has been completed, balanced and on time and now waits for the governor's signature.

As a state senator, I am responsible for the interests of all of my constituents, whether in communities large or small. While helping to craft the state spending plan, I have not forgotten the priorities of the communities in Dade County.

Three years ago, the state began to use a new funding formula in order to appropriate money to local school districts based on student need, not property value. The plan gives each district a specific amount per each student based on student need, not property value. Public K-12 schools in Dade County will receive approximately \$4.5 million, based on enrollment totals in previous years.

The Department of Agriculture will receive \$66 million to go towards important programs for our local farmers and producers. This includes funding for the department to hire an additional veterinarian to oversee disease control in traditional and non-traditional animal production operating in our state. The agriculture budget also includes increased funding for biodiesel and ethanol incentives. Encouraging alternative energy in our state works to stimulate the economy through energy efficiency and renewable energy resources and technologies as well as supporting local agriculture.

The state spending plan decides where your money goes, and I assure you that it is going to places that will benefit the people of Dade County and all Missourians with no tax increase.

*Senator Gary Nodler represents the people of Newton, Jasper
and Dade counties in the Missouri Senate.*