



WEEKLY REPORT

State Senator Gary Nodler
District 32



Room 423 - State Capitol Bldg. - Jefferson City, MO 65101 – Contact Barbara Mustoe Phone: (573) 751-2306

Week of May 4, 2009

Missouri's Budget

Appropriations to Benefit Communities in Southwest Missouri

Each year, we are constitutionally obligated to complete work on Missouri's spending plan, and as chair 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 always, my goal is to create a state spending plan that is fiscally responsible while meeting the most pressing needs of the taxpayers. The 13 bills that make up the state's spending plan include funding for state programs and services that directly effect the 32nd Senate district. These benefits include:

- Fully funding the operating budget for Crowder College in Neosho, one of the fastest growing state-assisted colleges in Missouri. We are also providing an additional \$136,000 in one time funding for the school.
- \$25.6 million for Missouri Southern State University (MSSU) for operating expenses in order to allow the university to keep providing students from throughout the state and nation with a quality higher education. An additional \$1.1 million will go to MSSU for one-time expenses.
- Fully funding the state's school funding formula. 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 fourth year phase-in of the formula includes \$133.1 million for schools in the 32nd District, a \$4.6 million increase for our public K-12 schools.

- \$275,000 for the Joplin Innovation Center, which helps new businesses in the area get started and supports existing businesses needing assistance.

The 2010 fiscal year begins on July 1, and I assure you that taxpayer dollars are going to places that will benefit the people of the 32nd District and all Missourians with no tax increase.

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