



## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Throughout my time as a legislator I have worked on many issues, including protecting the integrity of elections, promoting Missouri's economic climate and preserving our civil liberties. My priorities this year revolve around many of the same principles.

Elections are the foundation of our American democracy, and the process must be diligently guarded against fraud and corruption.

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 20 (SJR 20)** gives Missouri citizens the opportunity to vote to allow the Legislature to require photo identification for voters in order to protect the election process. A joint resolution is required in order to put an amendment to the Missouri Constitution to a vote of the people, and must be passed by both chambers.

**SENATE BILL 594** implements a photo identification requirement for voters, and provides a free ID for individuals without proper identification. It is contingent on the approval of the voter identification amendment (SJR 20) by Missouri voters.

**SENATE BILL 786** allows the Missouri secretary of state, the state's chief election officer, to investigate and prosecute cases of voter fraud. Extending this authority would help identify and prosecute possible voting fraud.

Boosting the Show-Me State's business climate is vital to growing our economy and providing citizens with well-paying jobs. Reducing government regulation and tax burdens on Missouri businesses will better enable them to thrive.

**SENATE BILL 798** requires the Department of Revenue to pay the legal fees of an individual or business if the department sues for back taxes and loses. Businesses should not have to bear the cost of erroneous lawsuits the government brings against them.

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 51** disapproves the State Tax Commission's recommendation to raise the property tax rate on certain agricultural land by 5 percent. The House version of this resolution was passed by both chambers and effectively disapproved the increase.

Our civil liberties guaranteed to us in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights can often be infringed upon by an expanding government. Preserving these liberties has always been a priority of mine.

**SENATE BILL 811** protects our Fourth Amendment rights by requiring police to obtain a warrant before using cell site simulator devices. These devices allow police to collect data from cell phones, and using them without a warrant should be considered unreasonable search and seizure.

Finally, many constituents have asked the Legislature to alleviate some of their financial burden that stems from ever-increasing property taxes.

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 35** allows Missourians to vote to freeze property taxes for senior citizens over the age of 75. Many seniors on fixed incomes are forced to leave their homes as property taxes take up an increasing percentage of their income.

*Dear Friends and Neighbors,*

*I am honored to be representing eastern Jackson County in the Missouri Senate in 2016. It continues to be a privilege to serve the 8<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District.*

*It is currently the middle of our legislative session, and I am working hard to make the best decisions for our communities and Missouri.*

*In addition to considering potential laws, I am also committed to helping citizens with any problems they may have with their state government. Unfortunately, state services can be bogged down with red tape, and citizens' concerns can get lost in the shuffle. If you have a problem with a state department, please do not hesitate to contact my office and ask for assistance.*

*If you are ever in our beautiful and historic state Capitol, please feel free to stop by the District 8 office and introduce yourself.*

*Sincerely,*

*Will Kraus*

*Will Kraus  
State Senator  
District 8*

## STATE SENATOR WILL KRAUS

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## LEGISLATIVE SURVEY

In my role as a representative of the people, it is vital to know the opinions of District 8 residents on issues affecting our local community and the state as a whole. For this reason, we put out a nonpartisan legislative survey every year to gauge public sentiment on issues that are likely to be considered by the Legislature or are particularly relevant to the District 8 area. Hearing from citizens is an invaluable part of the legislative process, so I want to hear from as many people as possible.

An online platform allows us to more efficiently and cost-effectively collect constituent opinions. Any district resident can complete the survey on my official webpage. However, if you prefer to fill out a hard copy of the survey, contact my office to request a form to be completed by mail.



## CONTACT SEN. WILL KRAUS

As always, feel free to contact the District 8 office with questions or concerns. I encourage you to reach out if you are trying to address a problem with a state government agency and encountering bureaucratic red tape.

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## LEGISLATION IN PROGRESS

At this point in the session, the hundreds of filed bills are at various stages of the legislative process. Legislation changes every day, and listed below are several measures that have made significant progress toward final passage.

One of the General Assembly's priorities for this year has been addressing some of the problematic ethical situations legislators face while serving the public. The Missouri House has passed House Bill 1575, implementing stricter reporting requirements for gifts received from lobbyists; and House Bill 1979, prohibiting public officials from registering as a lobbyist before the end of the full-term they were elected to serve. The Senate currently is considering these and several other ethics reform measures.

To the right is a partial list of bills the Senate has approved and sent to the House for consideration.

**SENATE BILL 572** expands reforms made to municipal courts in 2015 and restricts the amount of revenue a municipality can gain from minor ordinance violations.

**SENATE BILL 591** brings Missouri's standards for expert witnesses in civil cases in line with federal standards. The aim of this bill is to promote Missouri's business climate by better protecting businesses from frivolous lawsuits.

**SENATE BILL 765** prohibits municipalities and police departments from requiring an employee or department to meet a quota for traffic citations.

**SENATE BILL 711** requires high school students to receive training on CPR and the Heimlich maneuver before graduating. The goal of this bill is to increase the number of Missourians with training on these life-saving techniques in case of emergency situations.