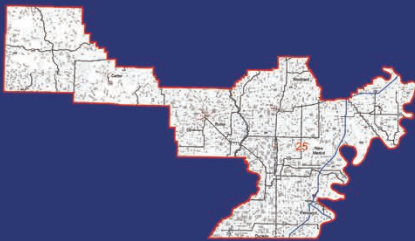


STATE SENATOR **DOUG LIBLA** DISTRICT 25 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

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Proudly serving the citizens of
Butler, Carter, Dunklin, Mississippi,
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and Stoddard counties in the
Missouri Senate.



Dear Friends,

As we approach the holidays, I want to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and many blessings in 2019.

This year, I served as the chairman of the Missouri Senate's Small Business and Industry Committee. This committee is responsible for considering legislation relating to the ownership and operation of small businesses, labor management, industrial development, fair employment standards, workers' compensation and employment security within the state.

Our economic engine is made up of family farms, small businesses, manufacturing, schools and hospitals, all requiring investment in 21st century technology. Well maintained highways, rail systems and water ports are critical as well. In addition, our beautiful lakes, rivers and hunting areas make our district diverse and attractive to all visitors.

Thank you very much for your letters, phone calls and emails of support. I appreciate your interest in the legislative process. If there is a bill that you are passionate about, I encourage you to visit your State Capitol and testify at the bill's committee hearing. We enjoy hearing from you; it makes a big difference!

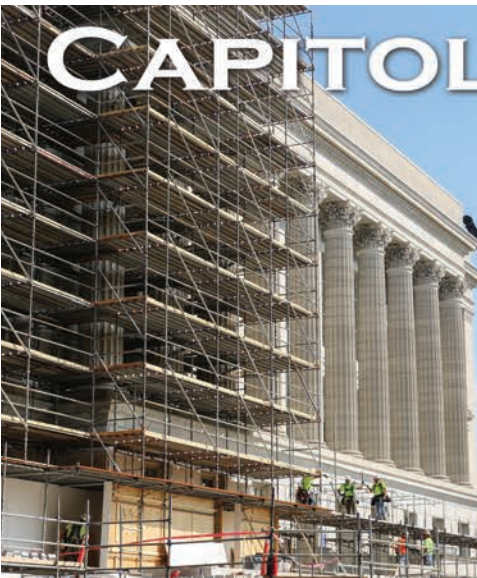
The Missouri Senate will reconvene on Jan. 9, 2019, and I look forward to continuing my service to you and the entire 25th Senatorial District. Until then, I will be traveling the district, meeting folks and learning more about the issues that matter to you.

Please follow me on social media and my Senate website for the latest news.

Warm Regards,



CAPITOL CONSTRUCTION



The Missouri State Capitol was built more than 100 years ago, and since its completion, there have been no major efforts to address wear and tear on the building. To address numerous structural and exterior issues affecting the building, the State Capitol is currently undergoing a two-year restoration project. During the project, the building's facade, dome and drum will be restored.

In addition to restoring the building itself, the Capitol grounds are also being renovated. The grounds of the Missouri State Capitol are said to be among the most beautiful Capitol grounds in the country. Work also began this spring on Monument Plaza, which overlooks the Missouri River on the north side of the Capitol.

The restoration project is expected to be completed in 2020. The goal of this project is to extend the life of the building, as well as improve the Capitol's overall appearance and structural stability, while ensuring the historic structure is properly preserved so it can continue to be enjoyed by generations to come.

TAX CUTS

The Missouri General Assembly passed legislation reducing the tax burden on Missourians, while also ensuring our state maintains the ability to fund necessary government services.

House Bill 2540 became law and will reduce the top tax rate by 0.4 percent beginning next year. In addition, the legislation modifies Missouri's personal exemptions, dependency exemptions and deductions in order to align the state with the new federal tax code. These changes will simplify and reduce the tax burden on Missourians, while ensuring our state budget remains balanced.

One of the most important aspects of economic development is the state's corporate tax structure. It is imperative we keep corporate income tax rates low so we can encourage businesses to choose Missouri when considering where to locate their companies. Senate Bill 884, approved by the General Assembly, reduces the corporate income tax rate from 6.25 percent to 4 percent. This change in law means Missouri will now have the second lowest corporate income tax rate in the United States.

Less money collected and spent by the government means more money in your pocket. Lowering corporate taxes will make Missouri more attractive to prospective companies and will help us retain the businesses who employ people throughout the state.

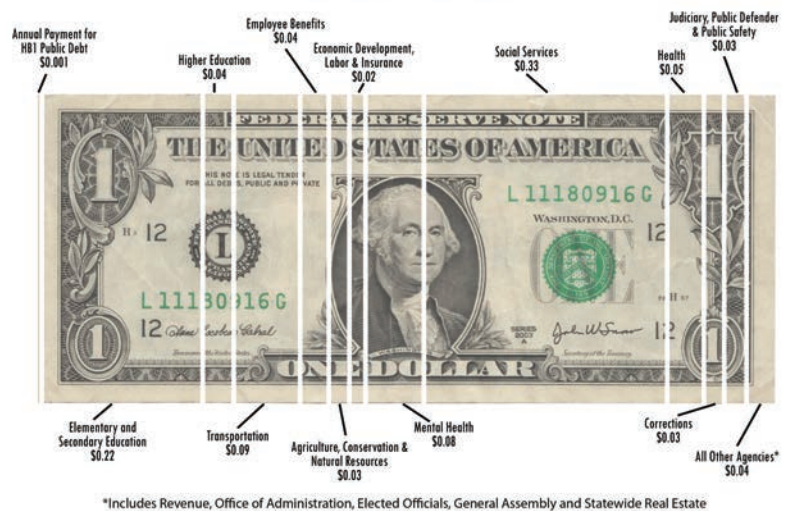


Senator Libla sponsored Rep. Steve Cookson, R-Poplar Bluff, for his appointment to the Organ Donation Advisory Council.



Pastor Tom and Cherie Graham along with students from Westwood Baptist Academy in Poplar Bluff visit the State Capitol in February.

DISTRIBUTION OF EACH TAX DOLLAR FISCAL YEAR 2019 OPERATING BUDGET All Funds: \$28.310 Billion



Lawmakers truly agreed and finally passed the state's 2019 operating budget, meeting the constitutional deadline for the budget to be sent to the governor's office. The graphic above represents the appropriation of each tax dollar to Missouri's various state agencies and departments.

2018 SPONSORED LEGISLATION

Senate Bill 894: My goal in filing this extremely important piece of legislation was for schools to offer and encourage K-12 students to take quality computer science courses, and for those courses to count toward high school graduation starting in the 2019-2020 school year. A version of this measure was passed during the extraordinary session in September.

Senate Bill 800: I filed this legislation to ensure children find a safe, loving and stable home without unnecessary delays. This legislation, which was signed into law by the governor, will allow a private attorney to file the petition for adoption and the petition to terminate parental rights in the same motion. Allowing both of these motions to be filed at the same time will keep the process moving forward without unnecessary delays, which often keeps a child in limbo for an extended period of time.

Senate Bill 581: This legislation, which was signed into law by the governor, removes the requirement that landlords must keep all security deposits in a trust account and repeals state law prohibiting the commingling of security deposits with personal funds. I believe this provision addresses an issue where the government is adding more regulations and laws, causing extra paperwork for individuals and businesses who are trying to make a living.

Senate Bill 579: This legislation would have removed the option for probation and parole for individuals convicted of felony assaults against our police officers and other emergency service providers. The legislature never had an opportunity to vote on this bill because the Senate Fiscal Oversight Committee did not take a vote to fund it.

Senate Bill 580: This legislation would have allowed legal notices to be published, for a fee of \$10.00, on a website established and maintained by the secretary of state, instead of current newspaper publications. This legislation received a hearing in the Senate Local Government & Elections Committee, but was not voted on by the Senate.

MAGNITUDE 7 METALS

In March, Magnitude 7 Metals announced plans to reopen the aluminum smelter in Marston and bring back 450 jobs to our community. In 2016, when the former owners of the smelter at the St. Jude Industrial Park filed for bankruptcy, hundreds of jobs disappeared, and it caused a major economic hit to our region. Magnitude 7 Metals acquired the facility with a plan to bring two out of the three production lines for processing aluminum back in service beginning with its first shipment in August of this year. Magnitude 7 Metals plans to produce primary and high purity aluminum at the smelter in Marston. At full capacity, the Marston smelter can support the production of up to 263,000 metric tons of aluminum per year. It will be one of only seven operational aluminum smelters in the United States.

A critical component to the company's decision to reopen Magnitude 7 Metals was their ability to reach an agreement with Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. The agreement allowed the company to acquire a reasonable energy rate in order to compete in the global aluminum market.

Providing a Pathway to Success for Missouri's Future

In January of this year, my office hosted the 2018 Southeast Missouri Education Forum at Three Rivers College in Poplar Bluff. More than 40 K-12 schools were represented by superintendents, principals and school board members. The theme of the forum was "Are We Teaching What Our Students Need for the 21st Century?"



Missouri needs new computer science standards to include coding and programming, along with guidelines designed for K-12 schools. Polls indicate that 93 percent of Missouri parents want their children to be taught the computer science skills they need for the 21st century job market. This knowledge is in high demand across our state and throughout our country.

It has been reported that more than 11,000 unfilled computer science jobs are available in our state, with an average salary of \$82,000, which is nearly double the current average salary in Missouri. Computing occupations are the No. 1 source of all new wages in the United States. Jobs in STEM related fields, especially those focusing on computer technology, are the driving force of growth and innovation throughout Missouri.

Senate Bill 894, which I sponsored, encouraged high school students to take computer science courses. Ensuring the passage of this career opportunity bill was one of my top priorities for the 2018 legislative session. However, it was vetoed by the governor for reasons relating to the amendments added during the legislative process not related to the computer science portion. House Bill 3 was passed during the extraordinary session in September, containing the language of Senate Bill 894.



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