

State Senator **Lauren Arthur** District 17



2021 Legislative Review

What an honor it has been to serve you in the Missouri Senate again this year. The 2021 legislative session began against a backdrop of uncertainties, both statewide and in America, but in five months we were able to deliver some commonsense solutions to move our state forward. Thank you for entrusting me to be your voice in Jefferson City and for helping me achieve the goal I set when running for office, to simply make things better.

Throughout this surprising and unpredictable session, we succeeded on several fronts, such as creating new tools to combat opioid and drug abuse, as well as passing legislation to increase transportation funding. Unfortunately, I believe we fell a bit short on others, like prohibiting convicted domestic abusers from possessing a firearm and expanding Medicaid. I used to tell my middle school students, it's what we do next that matters the most. This is why I'm counting on you for input and guidance. If you have an idea to improve the Northland or make our state better, please reach out. I'm ready to fight for you!

All My Best,

A handwritten signature of Lauren Arthur in black ink.

Senator Lauren Arthur
District 17



The latest census indicates the 17th Senatorial District has grown by 15%, or 27,052 residents, the second-largest area of growth in the state!

Meet the Team:



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Legislative Successes



During the 2021 legislative session, I sponsored 24 bills, and seven of these were voted “do pass” out of committee. Two of my proposals were amended onto the truly agreed to and finally passed **House Bill 432**, and two others were amended onto an omnibus education measure, **Senate Bill 152**.

Many hardworking families face a harsh dilemma: take a higher paying job and lose child care, or remain at the lower pay and retain these benefits. **Senate Bill 206**, the Low-Wage Trap Elimination Act, ensures low-income, working parents can earn better wages while retaining quality transitional child care. This language is part of the “Hand-up Pilot Program” in HB 432, allowing income-eligible applicants to receive full child care benefits. The Children’s Division will implement the pilot program in Clay, Jackson and Greene counties. **Senate Bill 525**, which allows WIC recipients to use vouchers at local farmers’ markets to purchase healthy fruits and vegetables, was also added to HB 432.

Securing Missouri’s Future through Education

The time I spent teaching middle school solidified my passion to make Missouri’s schools the best in the nation. In fact, a few of my colleagues and I have started an informal working group to examine our educational system, identify priorities and outline solutions. Although my competence-based education grant program, **Senate Bill 33**, and my proposal to establish the Show-Me Success Diploma Program as an alternative pathway to graduation, **Senate Bill 34**, progressed through the legislative process, they didn’t quite make it across the finish line this year. Good policies are sometimes years in the making, so I will keep pushing to improve educational outcomes for the future leaders of Missouri.

Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed in 2021

Below are a few of the measures passed by the Legislature this session. To review the entire list, visit senate.mo.gov/legislation.

House Bill 271 limits local governments’ ability to issue a public health order to close businesses, churches and schools and prevents requiring proof of vaccination (COVID 19 passports) to access public transportation and other services.

House Bill 297 establishes the Students’ Right to Know Act to help high school seniors make informed decisions about their future career paths and allows student athletes to earn compensation for the use of their name, image or likeness.

House Bill 429 authorizes an income tax deduction for foster parents for the costs associated with raising a foster child and creates the Birth Match Program between the Children’s Division and State Registrar.

House Bill 430 expands tax credit programs for those who donate to domestic violence shelters or maternity homes and allows the existing adoption tax credit program to include all adoptions.

Senate Bill 26 establishes a Law Enforcement Bill of Rights and the Police Use of Force Transparency Act of 2021 and prohibits local political subdivisions from drastically reducing funding for law enforcement.

Senate Bill 51 shields businesses, individuals and health care workers from COVID-19 exposure litigation and protects individuals or businesses who design, manufacture or distribute products relating to COVID-19 from liability.

Senate Bill 63 establishes a prescription drug monitoring program in Missouri to help prevent the misuse of opioids and other addictive narcotics.

Senate Bill 71 allows pets to be included in adult protective orders and extends the length of orders for up to a lifetime in extreme situations.

Senate Bill 153 & 97 requires online retailers who make over \$100,000 in sales to collect sales tax on all internet purchases made by Missourians and establishes the Missouri Working Family Tax Credit Act.

Senate Bill 262 raises the fuel tax by 2.5 cents per gallon per year through 2025 to help fund our state’s roads and bridges.

Passing a Balanced Budget

FISCAL YEAR 2022

MISSOURI OPERATING BUDGET

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

GENERAL REVENUE...\$10,350,616,534 (29.6%)

The main sources of General Revenue are:

Individual Income Tax Insurance Premium Tax
Sales and Use Tax Liquor and Beer Tax
Corporate Income Tax

FEDERAL FUNDS.....\$14,184,101,561 (40.6%)

OTHER FUNDS.....\$10,427,854,946 (29.8%)

Other funds are resources dedicated to specific purposes.

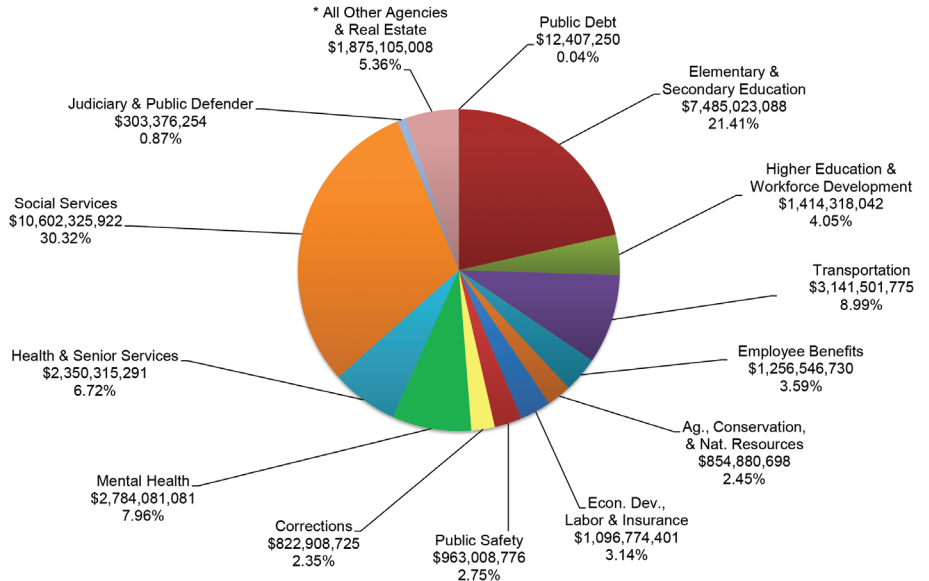
Examples include:

Lottery and Gaming Proceeds
Highway and Road Funds
Conservation Parks, Soil & Water Funds
Proposition C and Cigarette Tax

TOTAL AVAILABLE AFTER REFUNDS:

\$34,962,573,041

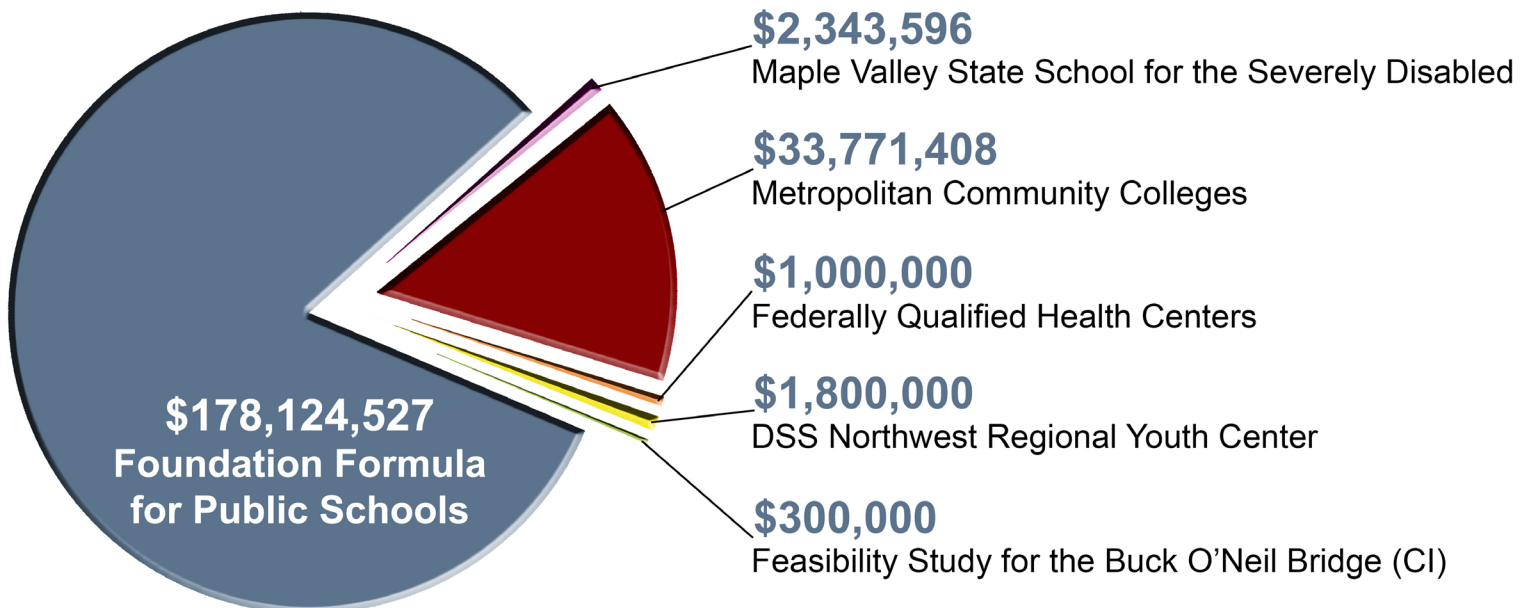
FISCAL YEAR 2022 TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET BY DEPARTMENT All Funds: \$34.963 Billion



* Includes: Revenue, Office of Administration, Elected Officials, General Assembly, and Statewide Real Estate

Funding Our Community

One important way I represent you is by making sure our community receives its share of state resources. I advocated for \$250,000 for literacy programs, a \$200,000 appropriation for a Kansas City business accelerator and \$5 million for A+ program funding for eligible high school students in dual-credit or dual-enrollment classes. In addition, I ensured that the Missouri Public Defenders' office – long underfunded – received its requested appropriation to hire 53 more attorneys, and I also secured funding to expand the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program to Missouri.



Appropriations for District 17 are part of the Kansas City region, so overlaps in funding from other Senate districts may occur.

Resources Page

Missouri offers a wide variety of helpful resources for families, communities, veterans, outdoor enthusiasts and more.
Click on the images below to visit their websites.



Strengthening Missouri's communities
through service.



Connect with Me

The Department of Health and Senior Services offers
Connect with Me cards, a free tool to strengthen
connections and help start meaningful conversations
between youth and adults.

Missouri Department of Conservation

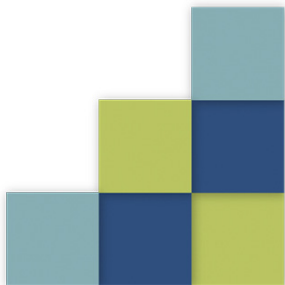


SHOW-ME



MISSOURI

816-468-0400 or visit
www.tri-countymhs.org

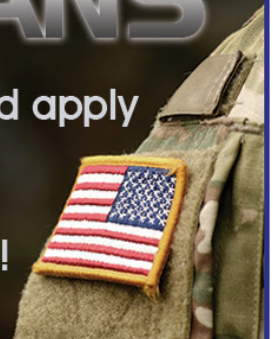


OFFICE OF CHILDHOOD
SUCCESS
AT EVERY
STAGE

The Missouri Office of Childhood
provides a comprehensive approach to
early childhood care and education.

VETERANS

Discover resources and apply
for the benefits you've
earned on the new
Veteran Benefits Portal!



veteranbenefits.mo.gov