

2024 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



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Dear St. Charles County neighbors,

The 2024 legislative session drew to a close on May 17. While debates were contentious and lengthy at times, I am overall pleased with many of the bills and the state operating budget the Legislature passed.

As a spokesman for the conservative platform and champion of the values we hold dear, I will always stand for the unborn, limited government and the right to bear arms as guaranteed by the Second Amendment.

Representing you and being the voice for our St. Charles County community in the Missouri Senate is an honor and a privilege. If you need help with navigating state government or the legislative process, please reach out to my team, Duell Lauderdale and Jamey Murphy. We're proud to serve!

Regards,

Senator Nick Schroer



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MY PUBLIC SAFETY LEGISLATION

One of my top priorities in the Legislature is ensuring Missouri communities are safe and crime free. I am pleased to report the culmination of my public safety advocacy and legislation came to fruition this session as provisions in the combined <u>Senate Bill 754</u>.



- Changes the jurisdiction in juvenile proceedings from the juvenile court to the circuit court in which the violation occurred.
- Creates a "Stop Cyberstalking and Harrassment Task Force."
- Redirects the motion to vacate or set aside judgment from the jurisdiction where the person was convicted to the jurisdiction where the charges were filed.
- Adds those who have been found guilty of a dangerous felony to the definition of a "persistent offender."



- Increases minimum prison terms for armed criminal action offenses.
- Charges a person who encourages or helps a child engage in illegal conduct involving a firearm with endangering the welfare of a child.
- Reclassifies the charge for unlawful possession of a firearm to a class C felony.
- Creates the offense of "delivery of a controlled substance causing serious physical injury or overdose death."
- Limits civilian review boards solely to reviewing, investigating, making findings and recommending disciplinary action against law enforcement officers.
- Enacts "Valentine's Law" to create the offense of "aggravated fleeing a police stop" and strengthens the penalty for incidents resulting in death or injury.

SCHOOL CHOICE & EDUCATION REFORM

Parents deserve and need the final say when it comes to their child's education. As a proponent of expanding school choice and placing the control back in the hands of parents instead of government, I am pleased the governor signed <u>Senate Bill 727</u> into law on May 7. In addition to raising the cap on the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program from \$50 million to \$75 million, the law is designed to help students and educators alike.

- Raises teachers' base salary to \$40K.
- Broadens the Career Ladder Program.
- ✓ Creates a Teacher Recruitment and Retention State Scholarship Program.
- ✓ Updates the Foundation Formula for K-12 public schools.
- Establishes the Elementary Literacy Fund to address reading deficiencies.
- ✓ Modifies minimum school terms and incentivizes 5-day school weeks.



PROTECTING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

The governor signed <u>House Bill 2634</u> into law on May 9, banning all state funding from going to abortion providers and their affiliates in Missouri. This will ensure no MO HealthNet reimbursements will be made to these organizations, which still perform abortions in other states.

As a staunch pro-life proponent and sponsor of the Missouri Stands for Unborn Act that triggered the abortion ban two years ago, I believe this new law will further protect the sanctity of life and put a stop to our Missouri tax dollars being funneled to abortion-providing clinics.



SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED US



Senate Bill 912 will greatly benefit those who have answered the call of duty and defended our nation. In addition to streamlining the process for veterans to apply for a disabled license plate or placard, SB 912 fortifies suicide prevention efforts, connects our service men and women to the benefits they've earned, provides educational assistance grants for members of the Missouri National Guard and establishes a new medallion program for those who served in Afghanistan.

Preserving Election Integrity

<u>Senate Joint Resolution 78</u> will permit voters to decide on the November ballot whether or not to ban ranked choice voting (RCV) in Missouri and specify that only U.S. citizens and Missouri residents can vote in elections. The resolution also specifies that all elections shall be by paper ballot or other lawful methods. The City of St. Louis will be exempt from this amendment since it enacted RCV in 2021.



REFORMING THE INITIATIVE PETITION



I was extremely disappointed <u>Senate Joint Resolution 74</u> ended in impasse in the Senate. Initiative Petition (IP) reform was hailed as one of the top priorities of the majority party, prompting my conservative colleagues and me to stand for hours upon hours to pass the resolution.

The resolution would have prohibited foreign influence in the IP process and made it more difficult to amend the Missouri Constitution by requiring a majority of votes cast in five of eight congressional districts, in addition to the current practice of a majority of votes cast statewide. I am hopeful we'll see a similar proposal next session.

Thank you for your interest in state government. If you have questions about any of the legislation discussed in this legislative update, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 573-751-1282 or Nick.Schroer@senate.mo.gov.

SENATOR NICK SCHROER 201 W Capitol Ave Rm 431 Jefferson City MO 65101



General Election: Nov. 5

Find election info:

sos.mo.gov

St. Charles County **Election Authority**

sccmo.org

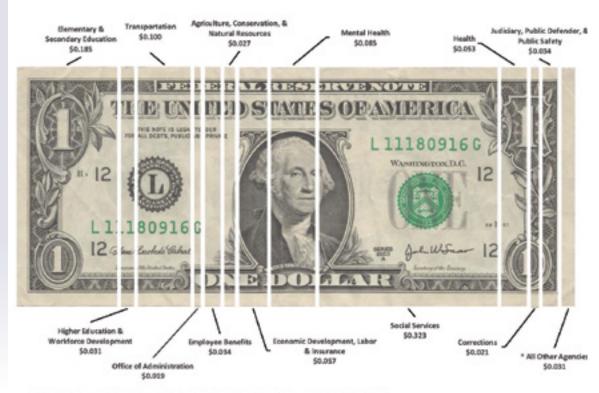
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FISCAL YEAR 2025 OPERATING BUDGET

The Fiscal Year 2025 operating budget totals \$47.1 billion. During deliberations, I voted against many of the proposed expenditures because they were too costly for the state and could have expanded the reach of government. Thankfully, many of those items have been removed, and the state will move forward with a balanced budget that is fiscally responsible and responsive to the needs of Missourians.



^{*} Includes: Revenue, National Guard, Elected Officials, General Assembly, and Statewide Real Estate