



2025

# CAPITOL REPORT

STATE SENATOR BEN BROWN

A stylized, handwritten signature of Ben Brown in black ink.



To view all the legislation passed  
by the 103rd General Assembly  
during 2025, visit [senate.mo.gov](https://senate.mo.gov)  
or scan this QR code.



573-751-3678



## PROMISES MADE, POLICIES DELIVERED

Thanks to your unyielding support, two of my proposals were signed by the governor, and three were added to other laws enacted on Aug. 28.



The 2025 legislative session yielded many successes for the people who call the Show-Me State home. From protecting the Constitution and enhancing public safety, to reforming tax codes and upholding students' rights, Missouri voters asked and the Legislature delivered.

### BANNING FOREIGN INFLUENCE IN ELECTIONS

I filed [Senate Bill 152](#) to prohibit foreign nationals from soliciting or interfering with voters' decision-making process. Signed into law on July 9, SB 152 bans foreign donors, who have funneled nearly \$300 million through dark money groups to influence ballot measures in 26 states, from election interference. Missouri has been a major target, receiving almost \$13 million\* in foreign-tied funding.

*\*Americans for Public Trust*



***"Finally, Missourians will determine the best policies for our state, not foreign billionaires. I'm grateful we put an end to outside influence in elections once and for all."***

***- Sen. Ben Brown***

### REDUCING TAXES

The Legislature also took proactive steps to help Missourians keep more of their hard-earned money this session. Besides creating a tax deduction for all income reported as capital gains, [House Bill 594](#) raises the earnings cap for the senior citizens property tax credit, adjusts the annual credit to correspond with the Consumer Price Index and allows disabled veterans access to these benefits. The bill also exempts some hygiene products from sales tax.

### IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY

Signed into law on March 26, [House Bill 495](#) restores state oversight of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department to a citizen-led commission, improves communications between peace officers and increases the penalties for trafficking a child.

My [Senate Bill 283](#), one of the governor's priorities, provides license reciprocity for spouses of law enforcement officers and was an amendment to [House Bill 225](#).

### STANDING WITH STUDENTS



[Senate Bill 63](#), my Homeschoolers Sports Act, permits homeschool students to participate in the sports and extracurricular activities their parents' tax dollars help fund. Participants must comply with the district's attendance, academic and disciplinary guidelines. All Missouri children deserve equal access to the enrichment and skills these activities provide. I am thankful for the steadfast advocacy of homeschool families who helped me get this measure to the governor in 2025.



### State Aid for Public Schools

[Senate Bill 364](#) ensures school districts will not lose their state funding or be penalized for being in session fewer than 169 days due to inclement weather. My legislation was added to [Senate Bill 68](#) and went into effect Aug. 28.



# 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



## DEFENDING THE UNBORN

Voters will have another chance to defend the unborn and clarify the current language surrounding abortion in the Missouri Constitution that resulted from the passage of Amendment 3 last November.



Pending voter approval, [House Joint Resolution 73](#) will ban abortions in Missouri, except in cases of medical emergency, rape or incest. The resolution allows the General Assembly to enact laws to regulate abortions, their facilities and providers, and bans gender transition surgeries and medications for minors.

## PROTECTING VOTERS

The governor called lawmakers to Jefferson City to convene two extraordinary sessions. The first yielded incentives to keep the Kansas City Chiefs and Royals in Missouri and funding for the 37 counties devastated by severe storms last spring.



The second extra session immediately followed the annual veto session on Sept. 10 and produced a newly drawn congressional district map and [House Joint Resolution 3](#), named the Protect Missouri Voters amendment. Pending voter approval at the ballot box, HJR 3 will require a majority of votes cast in each congressional district to amend the Missouri Constitution.

## \$48.172 Billion State Operating Budget

### WHERE THE MONEY GOES

1	Judiciary & Public Defender - <b>\$399,918,781</b>
2	Office of Administration - <b>\$767,270,370</b>
3	Corrections - <b>\$1,043,613,331</b>
4	Public Safety - <b>\$1,232,815,948</b>
5	Higher Education & Workforce Development - <b>\$1,419,907,258</b>
6	All Other Agencies ( <i>Includes Revenue, National Guard, Elected Officials, General Assembly and Statewide Real Estate</i> ) - <b>\$1,487,487,462</b>
7	Agriculture, Conservation & Natural Resources - <b>\$1,544,126,849</b>
8	Employee Benefits - <b>\$1,708,572,983</b>
9	Health & Senior Services - <b>\$2,337,806,425</b>
10	Economic Development, Labor & Insurance - <b>\$2,664,508,332</b>
11	Transportation - <b>\$3,564,927,863</b>
12	Mental Health - <b>\$4,376,271,419</b>
13	Elementary & Secondary Education - <b>\$8,630,865,463</b>
14	Social Services - <b>\$16,994,175,469</b>



The General Assembly passed the Fiscal Year 2026 operating budget in May.

## DOLLARS FOR DISTRICT 26

Aside from policymaking, my role as your state senator is to secure funding for the communities that comprise the 26th Senatorial District and connect people to vital resources. I appreciate the tireless support and advocacy that helps drive our district and state forward.

### EDUCATION:

- \$155.7 million for K-12 public schools
- \$5.9 million to East Central Community College
- \$9.5 million to State Technical College of Missouri and \$14.6 million for heavy equipment program



### STATE PARKS:

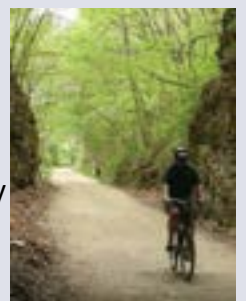
- \$1.2 million for Katy Trail, Meramec and Robertsville

### INTERSTATE 70:

- \$40 million to improve the corridor in Warren County

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH:

- \$931,760 for a crisis center in Franklin County



# SENATOR BEN BROWN

201 W Capitol Ave Rm 430  
Jefferson City MO 65101

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*It's an honor to serve you in the Missouri Senate. Thank you for trusting me to be your voice in Jefferson City and ears in District 26.*



Scan the above QR code to contact my office, bookmark my webpage, subscribe to my capitol report, monitor my legislation and connect to resources.



## HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR DISTRICT 26

The state offers a variety of programs and services designed to help and protect Missourians. If you cannot find the resources you are looking for or need assistance with a governmental issue, please contact my team. Marybeth, Frank and I will do our best to connect you to resources and answer your questions.



### Official Missouri State Website • [mo.gov](http://mo.gov)

Missouri's official state website offers a clearinghouse of information regarding businesses, jobseekers, taxes, elections, road conditions and more.



### Parents & Student Resources • [dese.mo.gov](http://dese.mo.gov)

Parents and students can access information about early childhood education, after-school programs, anti-bullying policies, school counseling and career options. 573-751-4212



### Family Support Services • [dss.mo.gov](http://dss.mo.gov)

The Missouri Department of Social Services works in conjunction with community partners and other agencies to protect children and provide services to families. 855-373-4636



### Veterans & Military Resources • [mvc.dps.mo.gov](http://mvc.dps.mo.gov)

The Missouri Veterans Commission offers a variety of resources regarding programs and services for veterans, current military service members and their families. 573-751-3779



### Behavioral Health Resources • [dmh.mo.gov](http://dmh.mo.gov)

The Division of Behavioral Health connects individuals and families with the help they need for behavioral health, substance use, treatment and recovery support services. 800-575-7480



### Senior Citizens Resources • [health.mo.gov](http://health.mo.gov)

The Department of Health's Missouri Senior Legal Helpline connects older adults and their caregivers with information and resources about legal issues. 800-235-5503