



DEAR CONSTITUENTS,

The First Regular Session of the 98th General Assembly came to a close on May 15. My office has been using this time during the interim to be back home in Kansas City, meeting with citizens, attending area events and drafting legislation for the 2016 session.

In this legislative review, you will find updates on a few of the high-profile measures discussed during the 2015 session, information on the annual budget and exciting district news.

Once again, it is an honor to serve as your voice in the Missouri State Senate, working hard every day to further the interests of the men, women and children of the 9th District.

Sincerely,

S. Kiki Curls

Shalonn "Kiki" Curls
State Senator

CAPITOL OFFICE:

201 W. Capitol Ave., Rm. 434
Jefferson City, MO 65101
(573) 751-3158
www.senate.mo.gov/curls

DISTRICT OFFICE:

4609 Paseo, Ste. 102
Kansas City, MO 64110
(816) 923-6000

CENTER FOR NEIGHBORHOODS

My primary objective as a state senator is to improve the everyday lives of my constituents. Strengthening and revitalizing neighborhoods throughout the Kansas City region is just one of the many components involved in accomplishing this goal. For the past two sessions, I have worked to secure funding for the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) Center for Neighborhoods: a one-stop location where neighborhood leaders and residents will be able to access available UMKC resources and capacities. I'm very pleased to report that \$500,000 was appropriated by the Legislature this session and subsequently approved by the governor for this innovative and worthwhile project.

Neighborhood organizations often lack the basic technical assistance that could make their efforts more effective. Simply put, they sometimes need help and guidance to carry out their missions. The UMKC Center for Neighborhoods will help bring these much-needed services to our community by providing neighborhood leaders with access to data, training and workshop seminars, and hands-on assistance from UMKC faculty, staff and students.

When it comes to the revitalization of our neighborhoods, I believe that true and lasting change begins with the people whose everyday lives take place in these communities. Through local non-profits and neighborhood organizations, citizens come together out of a shared desire to make their neighborhoods cleaner, safer, more desirable locations for families to call home and businesses to set up shop. The motivation is there; oftentimes, only the necessary tools and resources are missing. This is where community partnerships, such as the UMKC Center for Neighborhoods, play a vital role.

As the Center for Neighborhoods project moves forward, I will continue to support its efforts and any other project that aims to develop and coordinate community partnerships with local neighborhoods, enriching the lives of all those who live, work and play in these areas.

SENATOR CURLS WELCOMES STUDENTS TO THE CAPITOL



On May 7, I had the pleasure of welcoming students and faculty from Crispus Attucks Elementary School in Kansas City to the state Capitol. I always look forward to meeting with constituents, especially our youngest citizens, and showing them our beautiful Capitol building in Jefferson City.

KANSAS CITY TRANSPORTATION TAX



Every day, 55,000 men, women and children living in the Kansas City area utilize public transit. Of those, 76 percent are traveling to work or school—supporting themselves and their families, receiving an education and making Kansas City a better place to live and do business in the process. Statistics such as these paint a very clear picture as to why having a safe and reliable public transportation system is critical to the economic health and well-being of the entire Kansas City metropolitan area. That is why I sponsored Senate Bill 190, legislation that will provide for the future financial security of the Kansas City public transportation system by guaranteeing the renewal of the Kansas City transportation sales tax, which generates nearly \$35 million annually.

In 1971, the Missouri General Assembly passed legislation allowing both Kansas City and St. Louis to enact up to a one-cent transportation sales tax to support public transit. Both cities instituted a half-cent sales tax at that time. Then, in 2003, St. Louis was successful in getting legislation passed that made their sales tax authorization permanent. Senate Bill 190 does the same for the Kansas City sales tax by removing the expiration clause, thereby extending it indefinitely.

The Kansas City transportation sales tax is the largest source of funding for transit in the region. Set to expire at the end of this year, passing legislation to extend this crucial income source for Kansas City public transit in a timely manner was critical. I'm proud to say SB 190 passed through the House and Senate and has been signed into law.

PROTECTING VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

This session, Missouri lawmakers passed two measures specifically aimed at strengthening state laws to better protect victims of sexual violence:

Senate Bill 321 allows the courts to grant protective orders to victims of sexual assault; and Senate Bill 341 establishes procedures for reports of juveniles with problem sexual behavior and grants the Children's Division more authority to conduct investigations of sexual abuse of a child when the alleged perpetrator is another child, among other provisions.

Both SB 321 and SB 341 unanimously passed through the House and Senate and have been signed into law by the governor. Their provisions took effect on Aug. 28.

KANSAS CITY MLB URBAN YOUTH ACADEMY

It was recently announced that Kansas City's 18th and Vine District will be home to the seventh MLB Urban Youth Academy, an exciting program for which I helped secure \$2 million in Fiscal Year 2016 funding. Once completed, it will include four new state-of-the-art baseball diamonds and an indoor training facility for year-round baseball and softball instruction and play.

In addition, the academy will provide youth with access to tutoring programs, college prep classes, financial literacy and internship programs, and drug resistance and gang prevention programs, among many other opportunities. The academy's goal is to serve approximately 800 - 1,000 youth per year, ages 6 - 18, and for 100 percent of their youth to graduate. Phase 1 of the two-phase project is scheduled to be completed by fall of 2016.

NEW STATE OFFICE BUILDING IN RAYTOWN

I am pleased to announce the state Office of Administration Facilities Management, Design & Construction has acquired the old GE building, located at 8800 E. 63rd St., in Raytown, Mo. Once renovations of the 64,000 square feet of office space are complete, the building will house various state agencies.



SENATE BILL 5

Senate Bill 5 modifies the “Mack’s Creek” law, named after a small town in Missouri that was a notorious speed trap. Under SB 5, cities cannot collect more than 20 percent of their operating revenue from traffic fines. The bill also creates minimum standards for municipal governance and a remedy process for citizens who believe those standards aren’t being met. I voted for SB 5, and I’m pleased it has been signed into law.

HOUSE BILL 42

House Bill 42 was this year’s major legislative effort to overhaul Missouri’s existing student transfer law, which requires unaccredited school districts to pay tuition for students who opt to transfer to nearby schools. While I voted for an earlier version of HB 42, the final version went well beyond the original intention of the bill, and I ultimately voted against it. The governor vetoed the measure.

SENATE BILL 24

This bill makes changes to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Among other provisions, SB 24 lowers the maximum time a person can receive TANF benefits during his or her lifetime from 60 months to 45 months. Because of the potential hardships that could be imposed on Missouri’s children, I voted against SB 24. The governor vetoed the measure, but the veto was overridden by the General Assembly during the regular session.

HOUSE BILL 150

This legislation would cut benefits to Missouri children and families by reducing the unemployment benefit timeframe to one of the shortest in the nation. I voted against House Bill 150, and it was vetoed by the governor. An override motion of his veto passed the House while still in regular session. The Senate voted to override the governor’s veto during veto session; however, there is some question as to the legality of the law, and the matter will likely be decided by the courts.

SENATOR CURLS’ 9TH ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY FAIR

On August 15, 2015, I hosted the 9th Annual Public Health & Safety Fair at Kaufmann Stadium, home of the Kansas City Royals. Sponsored this year by the Black Health Care Coalition, Kansas City Missouri Police Department and the Kansas City Royals, this important event provided area residents with the tools they need to help fight and prevent disease while supporting a healthy lifestyle.

A record crowd participated in this year’s event, taking advantage of the wonderful services and activities planned for individuals of all ages, which included health screenings, the Truman Medical Center’s Mobile Market and the professional installation of car and booster seats. We also gave away 100 new bicycles to area youth.

Events like these help build community partnerships and provide those living in the Kansas City area with access to beneficial health care services, such as eye exams and immunizations, as well as blood pressure, dental, diabetes, mammogram and body mass index (BMI) screenings. I am proud of the support we received from the numerous organizations and businesses that teamed up with us to promote this year’s Public Health & Safety Fair. Our community needs to know what services are available to enhance their quality of life.



STATE SENATOR
 SHALONN “KIKI” CURLS
 201 W Capitol Ave Rm 434
 Jefferson City, MO 65101

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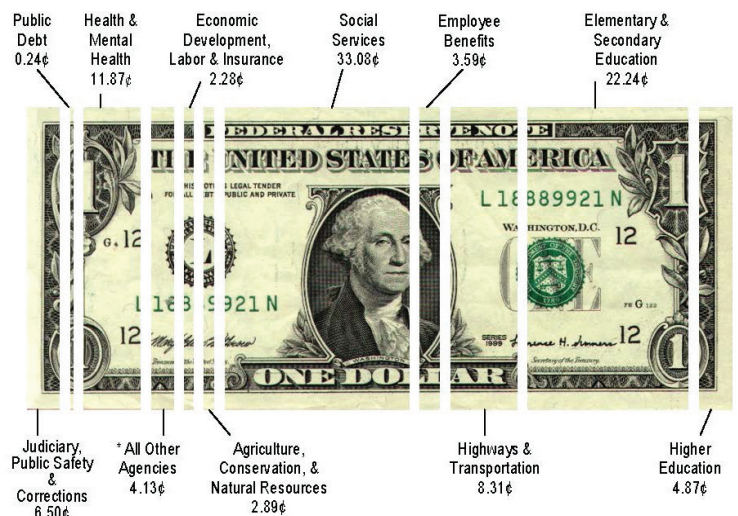
MISSOURI’S SPENDING PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

The \$26.1 billion spending plan for Fiscal Year 2016 took effect on July 1. It includes record levels of funding for elementary and secondary education. In total, the state is now spending just under \$5.8 billion on public K-12 schools, which represents more than 22.2 percent of total state spending. The budget also includes significant boosts to several important education programs and sizable funding increases to the state’s public colleges and universities.

SENATOR CURLS CHAMPIONED THESE BUDGETARY ITEMS FOR THE 9TH SENATE DISTRICT AND SURROUNDING KC AREA

- \$50,000 - Agri-Business Program for Youth
- \$100,000 - Kansas City Intra-district Transportation
- \$100,000 - Kansas City Tutoring Program
- \$100,000 - American Jazz Redevelopment Authority & Jazz Awareness Exhibitions
- \$100,000 - Buck O’Neil Community Center
- \$100,000 - Senior Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC) Program
- \$150,000 - Negro Leagues Museum
- \$258,000 - Kansas City Re-entry Programs
- \$500,000 - University of Missouri-Kansas City Neighborhood Initiative
- \$2 million - MLB Urban Youth Academy

DISTRIBUTION OF EACH TAX DOLLAR FISCAL YEAR 2016 TRULY AGREED AND FINALLY PASSED OPERATING BUDGET All Funds: \$26.028 Billion



SENATOR CURLS’ COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Agriculture, Food Production & Outdoor Resources
 Appropriations

Gubernatorial Appointments
 Jobs, Economic Development & Local Government

Small Business, Insurance & Industry
 Transportation, Infrastructure & Public Safety