



## Sen. Kraus Addresses the 8<sup>th</sup> District

*"That government is best which governs least, because its people discipline themselves." — Thomas Jefferson*

Dear Friends,

During my years of public service, I have often been asked what my guiding principle is as I represent you in Jefferson City. The answer is simple: I believe that this, your government, is of the people, by the people. Elected officials only manage it for you. It stands to reason that those who are elected must keep three basic tenets in mind. We must listen, we must not over-govern, and we must act in good faith.

Each year I hold many town halls, read hundreds of letters and thousands of e-mails, and my office fields thousands of calls. We send a yearly legislative survey to gauge public opinion. And I take every possible opportunity to be in the community. I welcome your input and, in fact, I encourage you to let us know how you feel or what issues you would like to see addressed. You will find contact information for your Capitol office on the back page.

It is easy to draft legislation. Someone always wants a change... at least a change that affects them positively. It is harder to

take an honest look and ask if the changes we are proposing are really needed, fit the role of government, and are affordable and efficient. A smaller government does less harm to its citizens, costs less and gives the people, not those in high places, the power. Below, you will find the legislation I proposed which made it through the legislative process. I hope you agree all meet those criteria.

People are truly disillusioned with their elected officials at all levels of government. They simply don't trust that we have their best interests at heart. There will always be disagreements on policy between individuals, but the men and women who represent you should be trustworthy. I want residents of the 8th to know that you are my barometer, not special interest groups.

I hope you enjoy this end of session report. My door is always open.

*Will Kraus*



*Sen. Will Kraus addresses members of the media in regard to SB 251.*

## Legislation Sponsored by Sen. Will Kraus

While the success of the 2013 session will certainly have different measurements for all legislators and for all who read this, I was especially pleased to pass a significant amount of quality legislation, including several Senate priorities.

There are several ways for a legislator to get involved with a bill as it goes through the process. Each bill has a sponsor in its originating chamber, then someone to "handle" or "carry" the bill through the other body. Often, lawmakers will add certain priorities as amendments to other bills, creating a stake in that bill's future as well. And a legislator can heavily impact a bill by offering significant amendments or even full substitute language to improve

the legislation.

Taking into account all the bills I was able to impact as they made their way through the process, I was proud to have had a significant influence on 17 bills that were sent to the governor this session.

**Senate Bill 28** changes the definition of "misconduct" so that only those who are terminated through no fault of their own can receive unemployment, as the system was designed. Too many cases exist where people who have broken rules, even laws, still receive unemployment benefits. Unfortunately, the governor vetoed this pro-business bill and we were unable to override his veto.

Senate Bill 102 adds catalytic converters

to a statute that requires the monitoring of sales of copper wire and other easily stolen and recyclable items. As often happens, it was combined with another similar bill and passed as **Senate Bills 157 & 102**. The governor signed the combined bills.

**Senate Bill 116** makes it easier for those overseas, especially deployed military, to vote. The governor signed SB 116.

**Senate Bill 117** waives university residency requirements for any military member separating from the military in Missouri in an effort to keep those members in the state. The governor signed this bill.

*Continued on page 2*

# — Sen. Kraus Legislation (cont.)

**Senate Bill 118** authorizes veterans' treatment courts to deal with veterans in the court system who could benefit from drug or mental health treatment, rather than incarceration. The governor signed SB 118 and another bill which included the same language.

Senate Bill 138 makes changes to the Neighborhood Improvement District statute to help Blue Springs and Jackson County collect fees from foreclosed property. While the base bill did not pass, the language was amended on several bills and included in two bills that did pass: **Senate Bill 248** and **House Bill 1035**. The governor signed SB 248. He vetoed HB 1035 and the veto was overridden.

**Senate Bill 251** was a bill drafted to comply with new federal mandates restricting the use of cash welfare (Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) benefits. The bill restricts the use of this cash benefit in casinos, adult establishments and liquor stores as required by federal law. It goes on to ban the cash from being used for anything "not in the best interests of the child." The governor signed the bill.

**Senate Bill 252** bans the Missouri Department of Revenue from scanning and storing all source documents you bring in to get your license, and requires it to purge any database it has by the end of the year. It also bans most uses of biometrics. The governor agreed and signed SB 252.

Senate Bill 380 makes changes to corrections programs regarding sex offenders. It did not pass on its own, but was added to **House Bills 374 & 434**. The governor signed those combined bills.

**Senate Bill 381** creates innovation education campuses and acknowledges the first such campus as an effort between the University of Central Missouri, Metropolitan Community College, the Lee's Summit School District and several local companies. The governor signed the bill at a public event on the UCM campus.

Senate Bill 395 changes the way political party committee members are chosen in Jackson County. It did not pass on its own, but was added as an amendment to **House Bill 110**. The governor vetoed HB 110 and his veto was not overridden.

**House Bill 110** changes the way the lieutenant governor would be replaced if this official left office. I handled the bill in the Senate for a former representative. The governor vetoed the bill and his veto was not overridden.

**House Bill 116** is a bill changing the auditor's duties and contains an amendment regarding the audits of Transportation Development Districts that I added on behalf of a representative from the Harrisonville area. The governor signed the bill.

**House Bill 128** allows counties to send property tax statements electronically when requested by the property owner. An

amendment also changes how multi-state corporations can choose to apportion their taxes in Missouri. I handled the bill in the Senate for a St. Charles area representative and a senator from that same area who was absent the day the legislation was taken up and passed in the Senate. The governor signed this important bill for businesses.

**House Bill 152** allows schools statewide to hire police officers, as they can currently do in Blue Springs. I handled the bill in the Senate for a House member from Blue Springs. The governor signed HB 152.

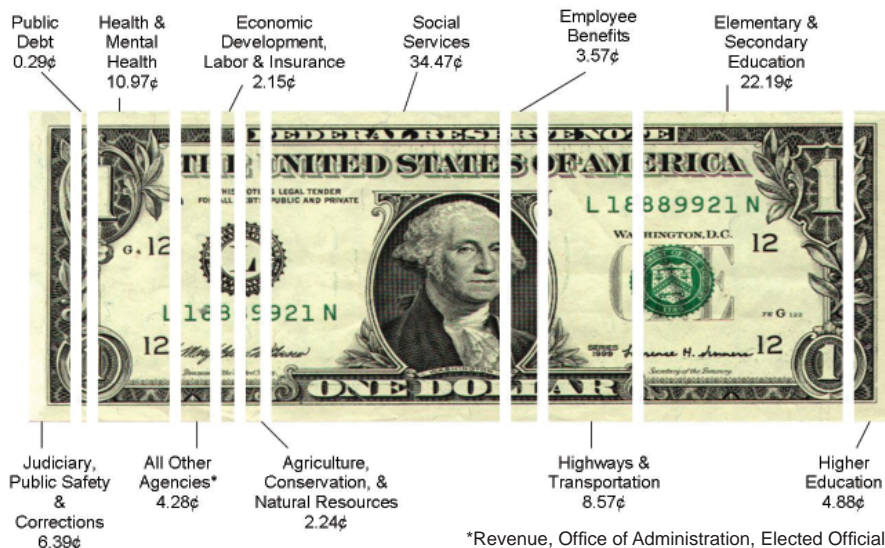
**House Bill 159** waives residency requirements for the K-12 children of deployed military members who may end up living with a relative in a new district. I handled the bill in the Senate for a representative from Bethany. The governor signed this bill.

**House Bill 253** cut taxes across the board. I introduced a full substitute in the Senate so, although I was not the sponsor and handler, it would essentially become my bill. The governor vetoed this jobs bill and we were unable to override the veto.

**House Bill 611** enacts three federal mandates regarding unemployment insurance. The language from Senate Bill 28 was also added in committee. I handled the bill in the Senate for a House member from Pineville and a senator from the St. Charles area. The governor vetoed this bill and we fell just two votes short of overriding it.

## Missouri's 2014 Operating Budget

**DISTRIBUTION OF EACH TAX DOLLAR**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2014 TRULY AGREED AND FINALLY PASSED OPERATING BUDGET**  
**All Funds: \$24.801 Billion**



\*Revenue, Office of Administration, Elected Officials, General Assembly, Real Estate

# Creating a Brighter Future for Missouri

During the 2013 legislative session, my colleagues and I addressed many of the priorities of the majority caucus. Among the major goals this year were to spur economic growth in order to bring business to our state and promote job creation.

One of the bills to directly affect business growth was **Senate Bill 1**, which modifies Missouri's Second Injury Fund. By establishing a priority for paying liabilities and a mechanism to bolster the fund when collections fall short, businesses no longer have to worry about the previous effects.

**Senate Bills 20, 15 & 19** either renewed or extended certain benevolent tax credit programs. Among the programs affected are the Children in Crisis tax credit, renamed in the legislation as the Champion for Children tax credit; the Food Pantry tax credit, which helps food banks and pantries provide food to needy citizens; and the Pregnancy Resource Center tax credit to provide assistance to women.

**House Bill 34** modifies how the prevailing wage is set for public works projects. This bill will help many rural counties by making the prevailing wage more reflective of what local contractors earn on similar projects. Reduced labor costs will allow counties and municipalities to complete public works



*Sen. Kraus presides over the Senate from the dais.*

projects, benefitting both citizens and the local construction trade.

**Senate Bill 126** was coined during session as a "freedom of doing business bill" for pharmacies. The legislation prohibits any licensed pharmacy in Missouri from being required to carry or maintain inventory for specific

prescription or nonprescription drugs or devices.

**House Bill 184** streamlines four existing programs into one, titled Missouri Works, which will better utilize economic development tools in order to strengthen Missouri's competitive business stance through innovative training programs.

In order to ensure Missouri's veterans are treated with respect, the Legislature passed **Senate Bill 186**, which specifies that all veterans' remains are properly handled and honored.

The Legislature's only constitutional obligation is to pass a budget each year. This year we passed a fiscally responsible budget that totals \$24.8 billion to fund our state's critical departments and programs with the passage of **House Bills 1-13**. Included in Missouri's operating budget for Fiscal Year 2014, which will run through June 30, 2014, is a \$65.8 million increase in funding for the state's K-12 schools and a more than \$25 million increase for Missouri's public universities and colleges.

To view these bills and any other legislation signed by the governor in 2013, please visit [www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov) and click on the "Governor's Action on Truly Agreed Bills" link under the "Legislation" tab. You can also visit my Senate website, [www.senate.mo.gov/kraus](http://www.senate.mo.gov/kraus).

## Constituents Always Come First

Every day, your District 8 office works to help constituents with problems they are facing regarding state government. It is very fulfilling to work with someone to reach a resolution to a problem. Here are some tips if you find yourself in need of assistance with bureaucratic red tape:

- Call our office as soon as possible. The earlier we are involved the better.
- Give us as much information as possible. A list of who you have talked to and when you spoke is very helpful, as is a

detailed description of the problem.

- We will do everything in our power to make sure the proper representative from a department calls you quickly. Work with them as best you can; that step is normally all it takes.
- Let us know whether the issue has been resolved or not so we can follow up internally.
- Despite our best efforts, sometimes law or policy isn't on your side. Please understand and work with us to see what

might be changed to help you in the future. Contact me at my Capitol office by calling (573) 751-1464 or e-mail me at [will.kraus@senate.mo.gov](mailto:will.kraus@senate.mo.gov).

*Bottom Left: Sen. Will Kraus on the UCM campus for the signing of SB 381.*

*Bottom Center: Students from Lee's Summit visit with Sen. Will Kraus on the Senate dais.*

*Bottom Right: A student from the 8th visiting with Sen. Kraus in the rotunda.*





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## Staying In Touch with Sen. Will Kraus



### *Fill Out the Online Survey*

Please take the time to visit our Senate website at [www.senate.mo.gov/kraus](http://www.senate.mo.gov/kraus) and look over our 2013-14 online legislative survey. It contains questions of concern to you as a resident of the 8th District. Your input and answers will help me better serve you in the state Legislature.

### *Contact Our Office*

You can always reach the 8th District's Capitol office in Room 418 by dialing (573) 751-1464, or by e-mailing [will.kraus@senate.mo.gov](mailto:will.kraus@senate.mo.gov).

### *Stay Informed*

If you haven't already done so, please sign up for our e-mail newsletter. During session, you will get weekly updates on what is happening both in our office and in the General Assembly. During the summer and fall we send fewer, more educationally oriented newsletters. You can sign up by either sending an e-mail to [will.kraus@senate.mo.gov](mailto:will.kraus@senate.mo.gov) with the word "newsletter" in the subject line or body, or by visiting [www.senate.mo.gov/kraus](http://www.senate.mo.gov/kraus) and following the links to sign up.

## District Days at the Capitol

Each year we designate two days during session as "District 8 Days." On those days we invite district residents to come down and see the Legislature in action. We plan tours of the Governor's Mansion, Supreme Court and Capitol. We also make sure the group gets some time on the Senate floor. Those who have come in the past have been thrilled with the opportunity to see the Legislature in session.

I am pleased to announce we will hold two District 8 Days again in 2014. On Tuesday and Wednesday, **March 11 and 12**, my wife, Carmen, and I will host district residents both days. Space is normally not an issue, so plan to bring as many friends as you want! However, *please note that tours of the Governor's Mansion will only be available on March 11.*

You can sign up by calling Chris Sutherland at (573) 751-1464 or e-mailing him at [chris.sutherland@senate.mo.gov](mailto:chris.sutherland@senate.mo.gov). We will send out several reminders in our newsletter and in local media as the date gets closer. Those who sign up will get more detailed information about a week before the event.



*Constituents visit with Sen. Kraus on a District Day trip to the Senate chamber during the 2013 legislative session.*