



STATE SENATOR

BEN BROWN



Proudly serving the 26th Senatorial District since 2022

2024 END OF SESSION REPORT

Dear neighbors,

It's hard to believe it has already been two years since I took the oath of office and was sworn in as your state senator. What an educational and inspiring process it has been to graduate from a pro-business advocate to a policymaker at the State Capitol.

The 2024 legislative session came to a close on May 17, and I am proud to report my military affairs legislation was signed into law by the governor. On Election Day, Missourians overwhelmingly voted to pass my adopted joint resolution by voting "yes" on Amendment 7, banning ranked choice voting in our state.

Being your voice in the General Assembly and representing our community continues to be an honor of a lifetime. If you need assistance navigating state government or the legislative process, please reach out to my team, Frank Catanzaro and Marybeth Bruns.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Brown".

Senator Ben Brown



INSIDE:

FIGHTING FOR
THE SANCTITY
OF LIFE

SERVING
THOSE WHO
SERVED US

PRESERVING
ELECTION
INTEGRITY

HONORING THE
FALLEN

BALANCING THE
FISCAL YEAR
2025 OPERATING
BUDGET

LOOKING AHEAD
TO 2025

573-751-3678 • Ben.Brown@senate.mo.gov
senate.mo.gov/BenBrown

FIGHTING FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

I am extremely disappointed voters overturned the “Missouri Stands with the Unborn Act” by passing Amendment 3 in the election on Nov. 5. As a staunch pro-life proponent, I will continue to fight for the sanctity of life in the Missouri Senate and work with my colleagues to find ways to protect unborn children.

Fortunately, the Legislature took a great stride toward protecting the sanctity of life this session with the passage of **House Bill 2634**. Signed by the governor on May 9, the new law prohibits all state funding from going to abortion providers or their affiliates in Missouri, like Planned Parenthood. I am thankful this new law is now in effect to ensure our state’s expenditures reflect pro-life values.



SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED US

When I was on the campaign trail, I met a veteran who was frustrated by the complicated process to acquire a Missouri disabled license plate or placard. I made it my mission to streamline this system, and I’m proud to report my military affairs legislation was signed into law on July 11. **Senate Bill 912** also includes my language memorializing a fallen veteran from our community and the following provisions:



- Permits veterans to use their U.S. Veterans Administration disabled status as verification when applying for a Missouri license plate or placard.
- Strengthens veteran suicide prevention efforts and outreach.
- Establishes the “Missouri Veterans and Job Opportunity Grant Program” to help incentivize employers to hire service men and women.
- Authorizes a new medallion program to honor those who served in Afghanistan.
- Designates the “POW/MIA SSG Paul Hasenbeck Memorial Highway” in Osage County to memorialize a fallen patriot from Freeburg.
- Grants educational assistance for members of the Missouri National Guard.
- Adds questions to state forms to help connect veterans to services and resources.

PRESERVING ELECTION INTEGRITY

Another priority of mine was banning ranked choice voting (RCV) in Missouri, the key provision in **Senate Joint Resolution 78**. Missourians took the final step in passing this measure when a large majority of voters approved Amendment 7 in the General Election.

Ranked choice voting is a confusing system of ranking candidates that would eliminate the tried-and-true, one person-one vote system we currently enjoy. The use of RCV could further erode trust and disenfranchise voters through “ballot exhaustion” during the tallying process.

The new law also includes language that aligned the Missouri Constitution with state statute by specifying only citizens of the United States are eligible to vote in elections. I appreciate the support of those who helped put this important measure in front of voters.



Senator Brown presents SJR 78 to the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee.

MEMORIALIZING POLICE CHIEF GRIFFITH

The 26th Senatorial District, and the Hermann community in particular, are still recovering from the devastating loss of Police Chief Mason Griffith, who was senselessly murdered trying to protect residents in the spring of 2023. To honor and memorialize his courage and service, I sponsored **Senate Bill 1067** this session. When my proposal didn't make it across the legislative finish line before adjournment, I tried another avenue.

On Sept. 11, the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight approved this memorial and dedicated a portion of Highway 50, from Nowak Road to Danz Road in Gasconade County, as the "Police Chief Mason Griffith Memorial Highway."

I want to personally thank Chief Griffith's family, his fellow officers in the Hermann Police Department and our entire community for their unwavering advocacy and support of this project.



BALANCING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET

For the first time in recent history, the \$47.1 billion state budget passed by the Legislature was more than \$1 billion dollars less than the previous year's. While I voted against some of the line items proposed, I believe the financial blueprint for Fiscal Year 2025 is a much better balance of fiscal responsibility and conservative investment than the than the budgets approved in recent years.

The 26th Senatorial District received \$232.2 million in FY '25, including \$134.6 million for public schools; \$9,340 for East Central Community College and \$13,328 for State Technical College of Missouri and their MO Excels Workforce Initiatives; and \$40 Million for Interstate 70 corridor improvements in Warren County. I am committed to laying the groundwork for a fiscally responsible future for our state and will continue to support a balanced approach that cuts taxes and spending.



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

SENATOR BEN BROWN
201 W CAPITOL AVE RM 429/430
JEFFERSON CITY MO 65101

PRSR STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Permit No. 220

Scan this code to:



- Bookmark my website
- Monitor my legislation
- Locate helpful resources
- Subscribe to my Capitol Report

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025



As I enter my third year in the Missouri Senate, I am eager to get to work on the hundreds of proposals the Legislature will consider in the 2025 legislative session. I'm also excited to serve in a new role as majority caucus chair. My election to this post will allow me to help ensure the caucus stays focused on the issues facing the state and finding commonsense solutions to benefit all Missourians.

My focus in the Missouri Senate will remain on:

- Protecting individual rights.
- Making Missouri competitive again through a growing workforce, reduced tax burdens and less red tape.
- Ensuring every child has access to a quality education.
- Strengthening and securing our elections.

Please join me in this fight! If you haven't participated in the legislative process before, here are some ways to get involved:

- Visit senate.mo.gov to track legislation and find the schedule of committee hearings.
- Consider offering your expertise on legislation and testifying at a public hearing.
- Follow me on X: @BenBrownTweets.
- Contact my team if you need assistance.
- Make an appointment to visit with me in my Capitol office.