



State Senator
DOUG BECK
 District 1



2024 Legislative Review

The 2024 legislative session and my fourth year serving as your state senator concluded on May 17. With lengthy discussions and gridlock over the initiative petition process, education and funding for health care providers, legislators only passed 28 bills and a \$47.418 billion budget for fiscal year 2025. I'll highlight a few bills that were sent to the governor for final consideration, but you may read the entire list [here](#).



Education: Senate Bill 727

While I believe increasing the cap on the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program could be detrimental to public schools, I was pleased to add my [legislation](#) to establish minimum school terms and incentivize districts to keep five-day school weeks. The new law also updates the foundation formula for K-12 public schools, raises teachers' starting salaries and funds a

literacy program for elementary students.

Federal Reimbursement Allowance (FRA): Senate Bill 748

The FRA is a crucial mechanism that helps fund MO HealthNet and important health care services, like hospitals and skilled nursing facilities. Last renewed in 2021, the FRA has now been extended through Sept. 30, 2029.

Fertilizers and Clean Water: House Bill 2134

Regulates and authorizes testing for groundwater and other pollutants.

Property Tax Relief for Seniors: Senate Bill 756

This act permits counties to authorize a property tax credit on the primary residence of eligible Missourians over age 62.

Honoring Veterans' Service: Senate Bill 912

To combat our state's above national average veteran suicide rates, this legislation increases access to suicide prevention resources and other benefits for our nation's defenders.

Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform: Senate Bill 754

In addition to raising the age for juveniles to be certified for trial as adults from 12 to 14, this measure establishes a conviction review unit to investigate claims of innocence, creates "Blair's Law" to end celebratory gunfire in city limits, increases the penalty for drug trafficking that results in injury or death and streamlines the process to expunge criminal records.

Legislation I Opposed

Throughout my eight-year legislative career, my top priorities have been to ensure all Missouri residents have access to quality schools, safe neighborhoods, well-paying jobs and affordable health care. I voted "no" on the following proposals because I believe they detract from the quality of life and vital services, instead of enhancing them.

I was proud to stand in solidarity with the minority party for a record-breaking 50 hours to block [Senate Joint Resolution 74](#), a proposal to raise the threshold to amend our constitution through the citizen-led initiative petition process. Before this resolution passed the Senate in February, my minority caucus colleagues and I successfully stood to remove the misleading language that is already in statute about noncitizens voting, only to have the Missouri House of Representatives reinsert the clause. I am thankful we were able to protect this century-old process of direct democracy that ensures equal representation through one person - one vote. I am also grateful for the support we received from you and that we upheld this tried-and-true, simple majority standard to amend the Missouri Constitution.



House Bill 2634 bans all public funding from going to abortion facilities and their Missouri affiliates, like Planned Parenthood. Lauded as a pro-life win in a state that already restricts funding abortions, I believe this law will prohibit low-income individuals from accessing lifesaving cancer screenings and other preventive health care services.

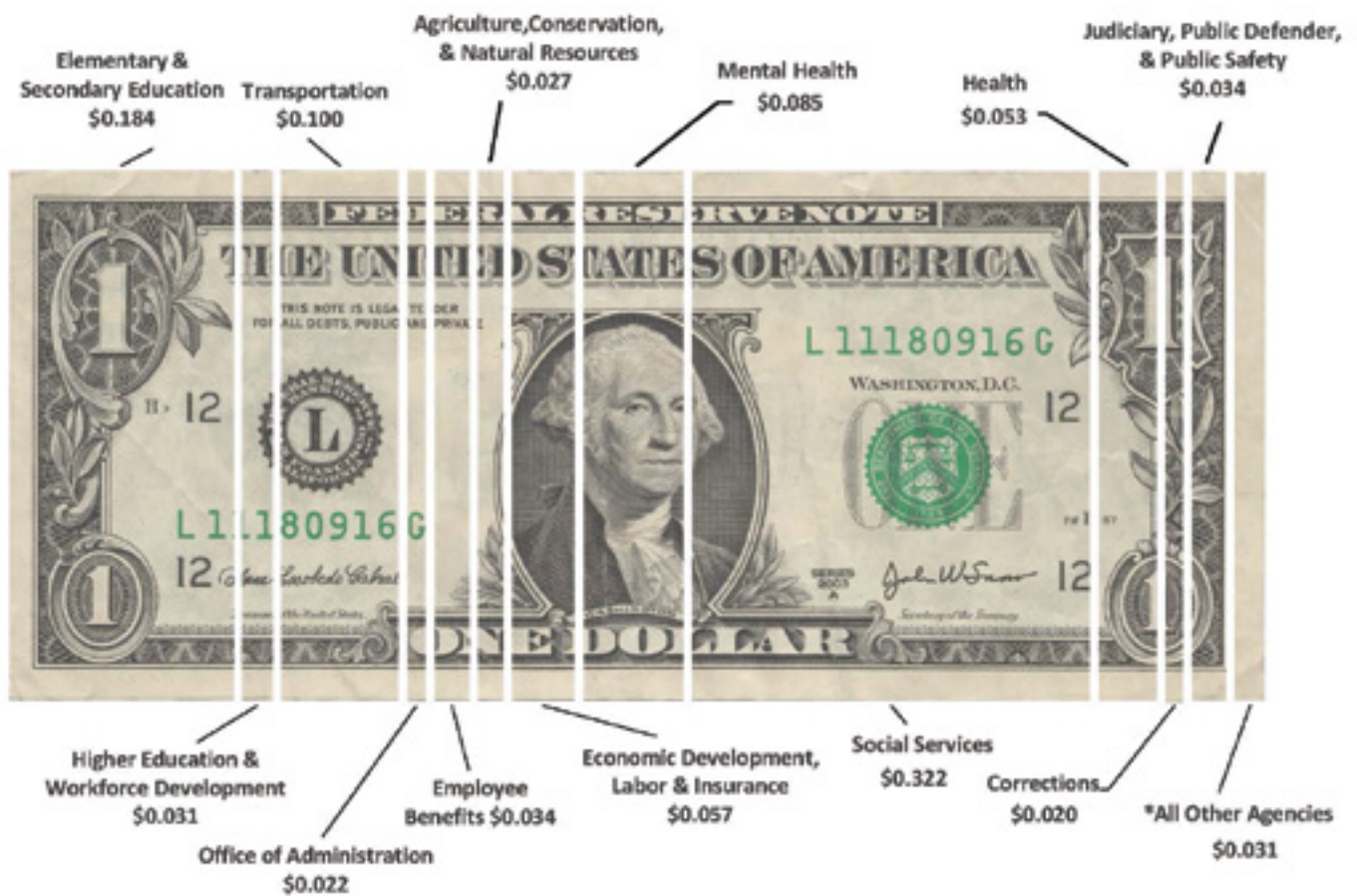
Senate Joint Resolution 78 will appear on the November ballot and let voters decide whether or not to prohibit ranked choice voting in Missouri. Luckily, our neighbors in St. Louis City who voted to enact this system will be exempt. This resolution also contains language prohibiting noncitizen voting in Missouri, which, in my opinion, is unnecessary as this is already disallowed under state law.

Investing \$2.3 Billion in St. Louis and South County

- \$1.41 Billion - Foundation Formula for K-12 Schools
- \$772 Million - Widen Interstate 44
- \$47 Million - Forensic Treatment Center
- \$16.9 Million - St. Louis Veterans Home
- \$8.1 Million - St. Louis Regional Center
- \$6.8 Million - Family Resource Center
- \$4 Million - St. Louis Metro Employment and Training Center
- \$3 Million - Annie Malone Foundation
- \$2.5 Million - Reading Literacy Program
- \$1 Million - Employment Connection Program
- \$1 Million - Mission St. Louis Housing Facility
- \$70,000 - Missouri Women in Trades

Pending the governor's approval of the \$47.4 billion fiscal year 2025 state operating budget, the 10 Senatorial Districts comprising the St. Louis Metropolitan Area will receive \$2,317,821,471 to fund public education, infrastructure, social services and economic development programs, plus an additional \$427,908,402 for repairs and maintenance. I've highlighted a few allocations for our community.

Fiscal Year '25 Budget- \$47.481 Billion Total



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

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