

Senator Bob Dixon

CAPITOL REPORT 2013

DIALOGUE **WITH** **DIXON**

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**Growing
JOBS**

**Advancing
JUSTICE**

**Promoting
GOOD
GOVERNMENT**

PROUDLY SERVING THE PEOPLE OF THE 30TH DISTRICT

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

This year was a productive one for the people of the 30th District. This session, my focus has been on several legislative priorities: to grow jobs, advance justice and promote good government. I worked tirelessly to deliver our top priorities to the governor's desk, including the renewal of the Children in Crisis (now the Champion for Children) and other benevolent tax credits, an additional judge for Greene County and new economic development legislation.

At the same time, I supported a budget for the 2014 fiscal year that reflected investments in funding for higher education, our state's K-12 classrooms, Missouri's veterans and other vital programs.

I am proud of the work accomplished for our area this session, and I thank you for the chance to serve as your state senator. I am working on legislation for next year to make Missouri a better place to live, work and raise a family. Please feel free to contact me with your thoughts or visit my office at the Capitol. My door is always open, and I'm ready to listen.

Sincerely,



GROWING OUR ECONOMY AND CREATING JOBS

Putting Missouri on a sustained path to economic growth and promoting job creation has been one of my top priorities. By sharpening our economic development tools and cutting burdensome red tape, we can be competitive and position Missouri as an excellent place for entrepreneurs, innovators and small business owners to grow, expand or relocate.

I successfully sponsored the **Missouri Works Initiative (Senate Bill 323)**, a bill to consolidate four existing business development programs into a single, streamlined initiative, which provides flexibility, simplicity of use, and broad applicability, while providing accountability and budget certainty. Missouri Works ultimately passed and was signed into law by the governor as part of House Bill 184.

Unpredictable or burdensome regulatory policies negatively impact the cost of doing business and discourage entrepreneurs or businesses from investing or expanding in our state. I sponsored **Senate Bill 416**, which became law as part of House Bill 28, to create a **streamlined permitting process** in the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, cutting red tape and tearing down barriers to economic growth.

A skilled workforce and quality educational opportunities are cornerstones of economic prosperity. Recognizing this fact, I have worked diligently over the last three years to hold the line on current funding for public education, even in difficult economic times, advocating for sensible tax credit reform and opposing attempts to siphon money away from public education to fund the expansion of other programs.



ADVANCING JUSTICE

As Senate Judiciary chair, I am dedicated to a strong, effective justice system, one which protects individual liberty and promotes a free society. When the courts have the necessary resources, those who commit crimes are dealt with swiftly and justly, keeping Missouri families safe, and routine matters of life and work are dealt with quickly, allowing families to move forward and business owners or entrepreneurs to concentrate on what they do best — create jobs.

I've worked diligently over the years to make sure the courts in Greene County can meet the demands placed on them, so citizens have their day in court and justice is not delayed. This year, I delivered a needed additional judge for Greene County and sponsored legislation to preserve our current number of family court commissioners. Both measures passed in **House Bills 374 & 434** and **Senate Bill 100** (originally filed as **SB 21, SB 22, SB 44** and **SB 45**).

I also sponsored or handled several key bills to improve the administration of justice in Missouri:

- **House Bills 374 & 434**, which included provisions establishing a process for reorganization of the state's judicial circuits and providing for the rational distribution of judicial resources (originally filed as **SB 21** and **SB 22**);
- **House Bill 215**, which updated and strengthened Missouri laws related to the prosecution of sex crimes, domestic violence, child predators and sexually violent predators, and also included provisions related to Missouri Public Defender caseloads (originally filed as **SB 414**); and
- **Senate Bill 327**, which provided more options to counties with respect to the electronic monitoring of certain criminal defendants.

As Senate Judiciary chair, I have a key role in the ongoing effort to revise and modernize Missouri's criminal code. A clear, concise and understandable criminal code contributes to a strong, effective criminal justice system, where public resources are used wisely and judges, prosecutors and public defenders have the tools they need.

PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNMENT

As your state senator, I've worked to promote fiscal responsibility and an effective state government that works for the people, not against them.

Recognizing the value of an ounce of prevention, I sponsored legislation (SBs 20, 15 & 19) to renew or extend several valuable **benevolent tax credit programs**, including the:

- **Children in Crisis Tax Credit**, now the **Champion for Children Tax Credit** in honor of former Sen. Norma Champion, which benefits crisis nurseries, child advocacy centers, and CASAs;
- **Food Pantry Tax Credit**, which helps Missouri's food banks and pantries provide millions of pounds of food to hungry Missourians;
- **Pregnancy Resource Center Tax Credit**, which aids pregnancy resource centers to provide services to women with unplanned or crisis pregnancies;
- **Public Safety Officer Surviving Spouse Tax Credit**, which aids the surviving spouses of public safety officers killed in the line of duty; and
- **Residential Dwelling Accessibility Tax Credit**, which allows individuals with disabilities to live at home longer, saving taxpayer dollars.



The impact of these programs in terms of lives saved or improved is tremendous. Allowing these tax credits to expire does not save taxpayers one dime in the long run. Tapping the strong charitable spirit of Missourians and encouraging them to give locally and support their friends and neighbors on the front lines to help Missouri's neediest citizens just makes sense.

I also sponsored a bill to update the duties of our state auditor to reflect 21st century realities and ensure the people's watchdog wasn't muzzled by outdated laws that have not been modified in a half century or more. **House Bill 116** (originally filed as **SB 65**) provides our state auditor with the tools necessary to root out waste, fraud and abuse, and promote efficiency, transparency and accountability.

2014 FISCAL YEAR BUDGETARY BREAKDOWN FOR DISTRICT 30

EDUCATION

- Ozarks Technical Community College - \$10,144,176
- Missouri State University - \$81,007,290
- Foundation Formula - \$104,961,922
- State Schools for the Severely Handicapped - \$2,275,346

HEALTH CARE

- UM/MSU Cooperative Pharmacy Program - \$2,000,000
- UM-Columbia Cooperative Medical School Expansion - \$10,000,000
- MSU Occupational Therapy Program - \$1,325,000

JUSTICE SYSTEM

- Additional Associate Circuit Judge (plus clerk) in Greene County - \$151,156
- Juvenile Court Personnel Reimbursement (Greene County) - \$240,069

VETERANS

- Springfield Veterans Cemetery - \$634,031

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Springfield Airport Improvements - \$5,000,000
- Springfield State Office Buildings - \$723,236
- Springfield Regional Center - \$1,082,868
- Division of Youth Services Facilities - \$1,788,940

STATE SENATOR
BOB DIXON

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SENATOR DIXON'S **LEGISLATIVE OUTCOMES**

LEGISLATURE
PASSED

GOVERNOR
SIGNED

JOBS

Missouri Works Program	SB 323 - Language passed in HB 184	✓	✓
Streamlined Permitting Process	SB 416 - Language passed in HB 28	✓	✓
MSU Occupational Therapy Program	HB 3 - Higher Education Budget	✓	✓
Medical School Clinical Campus in Springfield	HB 3 - Higher Education Budget	✓	✓

JUSTICE

Child Abuse and Neglect	HB 505	✓	✓
Greene County Judicial Resources	SB 44 and SB 45 - Passed in HBs 374 & 434	✓	✓
Funding for Additional Greene County Associate Circuit Judge Position	HB 12 - Judiciary Budget	✓	✓
Statewide Allocation of Judicial Resources	SB 21 (portion) and SB 22 (entirety) - Passed in HBs 374 & 434	✓	✓
Electronic Monitoring of Criminal Offenders	SB 327 - Also passed in HB 215	✓	✓
Sexual Offenses and Sexually Violent Predators	HB 215	✓	✓
Public Defender System	SB 414 - Passed in HB 215	✓	✓
Revision of Missouri Criminal Code	SB 253 and HB 210	⌚	✓

GOOD GOVERNMENT

Benevolent Tax Credits Renewal	SBs 20, 15 & 19	✓	✓
Repeal of Expired or Obsolete Committees	SB 66	⌚	✓
State Auditor's Duties	SB 65 and HB 543 - Passed in HB 116	✓	✓
Obsolete References in Higher Education Statutes	SB 67	⌚	✓
Legislative Redistricting Process	SJR 7 and SJR 8	⌚	✓