



From the House...

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The Final Days of Session

Political Lines & the Bottom Line

May 7, 2011

The last week was a mixed bag of legislation but the two most important things we would do all year were finalized in the last few days. Those two issues were the drawing of the congressional political lines and finalizing the state's budget, getting us to our bottom line.

A long process came to an end this week when the Missouri House and Senate joined together to override Governor Nixon's veto of our legislative redistricting map. It was the first successful veto override in Missouri since 2003.

Despite the fact that our map was supported by 8 of our state's 9 current members of congress, and was backed by both Republicans and Democrats, Governor Nixon decided to veto it.

While the Senate has enough Republican members to override the Governor's vetoes without Democrats, the House relied on bi-partisan support of the legislative plan to overcome the Governor's veto.

Overriding a veto requires 109 of 163 members in the Missouri House, or a 2/3rds majority. As there are only 105 Republicans in the House this session, Democrats have to join in for a veto override to be successful.

You can view the final, approved version of the new congressional map here:

<http://kc.citizen-publications.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/missouri-redistricting-map.jpg>



Students from Waynesville visit the Capitol

The other big issue of this week was the passage of the state budget. While Washington D.C. continues to debate our financial dilemma at the national level, the Missouri House this year was able to take a common-sense, family style approach to budgeting – only spending the money that we actually have.

I have always thought it's irresponsible to budget on the backs of our children as the federal government has done for years, and we will not allow that to happen in our State. We did everything we could to fund the vital needs of Missourians without raising taxes which would just put a bigger burden on families trying to make ends meet.

This session has been unique – with our current economic climate, it was challenging to craft a budget that would meet the state's needs. Not only were we

able to pass a budget without new job-killing taxes, but we were able to craft a plan in line with our session-long goal of creating new jobs for Missourians.

In the coming weeks I will write a series of articles about the state budget but I do want to mention one item at this time which many of you have contacted me on. I am proud to announce that even though our State's revenue picture continues to be grim, we were able to hold the line on our foundation formula education funding. Our local school districts will continue to be funded according to the formula.

By the time many of you are reading this we will be in the final days of the 2011 Regular Legislative Session. I will be talking in the coming weeks about the various bills that we have worked on, pointing out some that made it through the process and some that didn't.