

Rep. Sam Graves Continues Mobile Office Tours

A member of U.S. Congressman Sam Graves' staff is holding Mobile Office stops. Graves' Mobile Office will tour the district giving constituents the opportunity to speak with a member of his staff.

"I have always believed you learn more by listening than talking," said Rep. Graves (R-MO.). "My priority in Congress is constituent service and the Mobile Office is an additional opportunity for me to stay in contact with the people of the Sixth District. I encourage everyone to come by these informal sessions to discuss their views or receive assistance with federal agencies," said Graves.

The Mobile Office provides regular contact for communities and individuals who have a question or problem with federal government agencies.

The Mobile Office schedule for February 2010 is as follows:

- Friday, February 19th
Parkville City Hall - 1 p.m.
Platte City, City Hall - 2:30 p.m.
Weston City Hall - 4 p.m.
- Monday, February 22nd
Cameron Public Library - 1:30 p.m.
Maysville City Hall - 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 23rd
Brookfield City Hall - 8 a.m.
Sullivan County Library, Milan - 10:30 a.m.
Unionville City Hall - 1 p.m.
Schuyler County Library, Lancaster - 2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 24th
Worth County Library, Grant City - 9 a.m.
Maryville Public Library - 11 a.m.
Fairfax Branch Library - 2 p.m.
Mound City Public Library - 3:30 p.m.
- Thursday, February 25th
Carrollton Public Library - 9 a.m.
Salisbury City Hall - 11 a.m.
Fayette City Hall - 1 p.m.
Boonslick Library, Boonville 2:30 p.m.
- Friday, February 26th
Harrison County Courthouse, Bethany - 8:30 a.m.
Gentry County Library, Stanberry - 10 a.m.
Grundy County Courthouse, Trenton - 10:30 a.m.
Rolling Hills Consolidated Library, Savannah - 1 p.m.
East Hills Library, St. Joseph - 3:30 p.m.

ACT Prep Class at Missouri West- ern Institute

The Western Institute at Missouri Western State University is offering a five-session ACT preparation course this spring.

The course will be offered from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturdays, Feb. 27 - March 27 in Leah Spratt Hall on the Western campus. The total cost is \$143.50, covering the course and materials. To enroll, contact the Western Institute at 816-271-4120, visit the website at wi.missouriwestern.edu to download the enrollment form, or register in person at the Western Institute, Spratt Hall room 105. Please enroll by 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19.

The ACT prep class will teach test-taking strategies and provide a review of the four subject areas: English, math, reading and science reasoning. Students are asked to bring a No. 2 pencil and a calculator to class. The ACT test date is April 10. Students must register separately to take the test.

Perguson Points to State Budget Shortfall

"The Governor and the House and Senate budget leaders had agreed upon the revised consensus revenue estimate (CRE) for the remainder of this fiscal year which ends on June 30, 2010, predicting that revenues will be 6.4% less than expected at \$6.97 billion in general revenue," State Sen. Chuck Perguson (R-Caulfield) said. "The fiscal year 2010 budget was passed based upon an overly optimistic revenue estimate of \$7.76 billion."

"It was revealed last week that January revenues are 22.36% less than they were in January of last year with year to date revenue collections now falling to a negative 12.55% down from 10.5% last month year to date," Sen. Perguson said. As a result, Governor Nixon announced another round of withholds from the current budget of \$74 million.

"Unlike Congress, we must have a balanced budget," said Perguson, who is a candidate for the Republican U.S. Senate nomination, "The state of Missouri can't print money to satisfy unrestrained and politically motivated spending habits - even in an election year. To have a balanced budget, the General Assembly and the governor's office must build a state budget at or, preferably, below that target."

"The Governor's budget proposal would spend \$8.317 billion of gen-

eral revenue, a number that exceeds the agreed upon CRE by \$1.09 billion, or 15% - this is not a balanced budget proposal. The governor would pay for these excessive increases with federal "stimulus" money, which I contend is federal "dependence" money. This money, which Missouri is expected to receive, is about \$900 million plus a phantom \$300 million that might come from the federal government even though the legislation has not been passed by Congress yet."

"After years of fiscal discipline, a budget is now being proposed that relies on significant one-time monies that may or may not materialize," Perguson said. "Our budget difficulties earlier this decade stemmed from uncontrolled spending that relied on one-time monies. This can't be done, but politicians are often afraid of making the difficult decisions that require discipline, because they fear unpopularity, especially in an election year like this one."

"The disciplined decisions of the past few years have put Missouri in better financial position to weather this economic downturn than most states. Missouri remains one of only seven states that still have a triple-A bond rating from the three major bond rating agencies."

"The proposed budget suggests that \$900 million of one-time monies be used to pay for ongoing

operating costs of government and its programs. This money will not be available next year."

"It may be considered good politics by some, but it is lousy fiscal policy. We can't allow the federal "stimulus" to lead us down the path to ever more federal dependency and greater threats to the pocket-books of Missourians."

"How out of touch with our existing economic situation can we be to accept a budget that requires 15% more in general revenue knowing that we are currently experiencing 9.6% unemployment in Missouri? It just won't happen - even the 3.5% CRE is too high and is setting us up for even bigger budget problems next year and for years after."

"This is a time for restraint, a time to prioritize, and a time to drive efficiencies into the state bureaucracy. It is a time to shed the hindrances that hold back innovation and invention, a time to empower Missourians to build dreams, not sustain them where they are.


People are outraged with the unparalleled and unabated spending spree in Washington, D.C., that denies the economic reality that we live in. Missouri cannot, and must not, follow in those footsteps," said Sen. Perguson.

Sen. Perguson can be reached at: chuck.perguson@senate.mo.gov

■ **CONTINUED from Page 1.** mon to landlords and tenants at least 30 days advance notice before an inspection is performed, and to allow both the landlord and the tenant to be present at the time of the inspection. While the "devil is always in the

details," the possibility of a rental inspection program came up in a neighborhood meeting recently and seemed to be a popular concept. It may be the best tool available to us to ensure St. Joseph residents have safe and healthy accommodations.

You've Got Connections To



The City of **St. Joseph**
Missouri

www.stjoemo.info • Channel 19 • (816) 279-4YOU

In an effort to better communicate with our residents, the city of St. Joseph has developed several ways in which to interact with city government. Access City Council or staff using any of the listed methods. You will also find information on city programs and services, meeting schedules, and community events.

City of St. Joseph Website
www.stjoemo.info

City Newsletters
To view the *City Weekly*, visit:
www.stjoemo.info/manager/wir.cfm
To view the *Mayor/Council Update*, visit:
www.stjoemo.info/council/councilupdate.cfm

Government Access Channel
Cable Channel 19 in St. Joseph

24-Hour Message Line
Residents can call the message line at any time.
City staff will respond within the next business day.
Call **279-4YOU** (279-4968)

*For more information, contact the office of
Public Information & Communications at 271-4610*