A COMMONSENSE VOICE FOR MISSOURI HOUSE DISTRICT 96

BRAD CHRIST CHRONICLE

Connecting Communities Across South County

Record Money for the Classroom: How Five Years of Budgets Reshaped School Funding — and What It Meant for Lindbergh

The foundation formula is up 27 percent, school transportation aid has nearly quadrupled, and state aid to Lindbergh Schools' has jumped 86 percent — with the biggest gains coming since Rep. Brad Christ became a legislator.

Five years ago, the state of Missouri sent Lindbergh Schools about $10.4 million. This year it sent $19.5 million.

That is not the result of a bond issue or a tax levy. It is the result of state budgets that put record money into school funding.

Rep. Brad Christ, whose 96th District includes the heart of the Lindbergh community, has voted for every education budget since taking office in January 2023 — including the two that produced the largest increases Lindbergh has ever seen.

"People always assume Jefferson City has cut funding to local school districts," Christ said. "The numbers say the opposite."

The Formula: From $3.4 Billion to $4.3 Billion

The foundation formula is the main pipeline for state school aid. It multiplies a per-pupil "state adequacy target" by a district's weighted attendance, subtracts what the district can raise

See RECORD EDUCATION FUNDING/Page 13



Rep. Brad Christ and Sen. Doug Beck Cross Party Lines to End 28-Year Crestwood-Affton Fire Fight

A fire service dispute that dragged on for 28 years, cost Crestwood taxpayers more than $5 million and went all the way to the Missouri Supreme Court is finally over, and local officials say a Republican state representative and a Democratic state senator are the reason.

The City of Crestwood and the Affton Fire Protection District have signed a six-year intergovernmental agreement covering fire and emergency service in the city's annexed area of Ward 3, generally east of Grant's Trail. The agreement took effect Oct. 28, 2025, and runs through Dec. 31, 2031.

Under the deal, Affton continues as the primary responder in the annexed area, with mutual aid from Crestwood's own fire department as needed. Residents will see no change in who shows up when they call 911, but the city expects to save at least $1.1 million in its fire department budget over the life of the agreement.

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Results That Matter



AMEREN RATE INCREASE, Page 3

Brad Opposes Ameren Rate Hike



SENIOR TAX FREEZE, Page 12

Fighting for Property Tax Relief

BACK THE BLUE

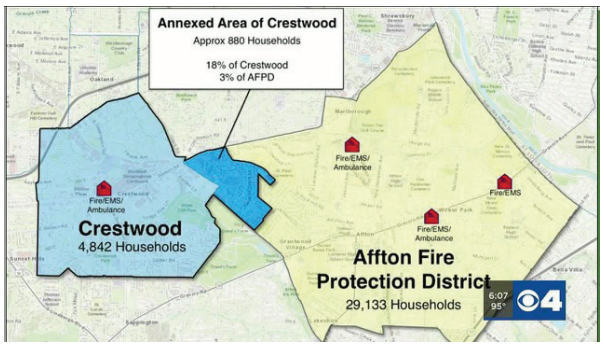
FIGHTING CRIME, Page 11

Making Our Communities Safer

BIPARTISANSHIP

From Page 1

Mayor Scott Shipley and Chief Waser credited state Rep. Brad Christ and state Sen. Doug Beck, D-Affton, for the bipartisan legislative work that made the settlement possible.



"After filing legislation three years ago, I am very pleased that Crestwood and Affton Fire have found a local solution," Christ said. "They have both been fantastic to work with and I am confident they will continue to provide their well-known excellent service."

Beck, whose Senate district includes the Affton fire district, echoed him.

"It's great to be a part of a solution to an issue that's been going on for quite some time," Beck said. "We look forward to the success of Crestwood and the Affton Fire Protection District as we move forward."

The roots of the dispute go back to 1997, when Crestwood annexed the Ward 3 area. Under a St. Louis County-specific state law, the Affton Fire Protection District kept its obligation to serve the annexed land even though Crestwood had its own fire department, and Crestwood was required to pay Affton for that service indefinitely.

As Affton voters approved tax increases for their district over the years, Crestwood's mandated payment climbed with them, eventually topping $500,000 a year. City officials called the arrangement taxation without representation, since Crestwood residents had no vote in Affton's finances, and described the payments as an unsustainable, budget-straining expense.

Crestwood sued in 2017, arguing the state law was unconstitutional. Affton fought back, accusing the city of trying to walk away from the same law that allowed the annexation in the first place. The four-year court battle forced Affton to prepare two budgets every year, one assuming it won and one assuming it lost. In April 2021, the Missouri Supreme Court sided with Affton and ruled that Crestwood's payment obligation stood.

That left Crestwood with no legal path forward. The fight then moved to Jefferson City, where Christ, who represents Crestwood, filed legislation in 2023 to

See BIPARTISANSHIP/Page 16



Twice in a Year, St. Louis' Wins in Jefferson City Were Made Possible By a South County Republican

Rep. Brad Christ carried the tornado housing bill and the downtown redevelopment act, and St. Louis Democrats voted with him both times. Now he's running for majority floor leader.

When Gov. Mike Kehoe came to downtown St. Louis late this summer to celebrate signing House Bill 3231, the biggest downtown redevelopment package the city has seen in more than a decade, Mayor Cara Spencer was there. So was Greater St. Louis Inc. CEO Ron Kitchens, who called the bill "transformative." **But the lawmaker who wrote it and carried it through the House was not a member of the city's delegation. It was Rep. Brad Christ, a Republican from Sunset Hills.**

It was the second time in a year that St. Louis got what it needed from Jefferson City with Christ at the microphone. In June 2025, less than four weeks after an EF-3 tornado tore through north St. Louis, Christ handled the bill that let emergency housing aid reach displaced families, and the House passed it 147-2 with every St. Louis Democrat voting yes.

St. Louis' agenda is never an easy sell in a Capitol where Republicans hold supermajorities and rural legislators are wary of big-city priorities. Dave Drebes, publisher of the Missouri Scout newsletter, put it bluntly in a Sept. 18 column for the St. Louis Business Journal: **"Without Christ and Gregory — or similar Republicans who are well liked and well respected by their peers — there is no big signing celebration in downtown St. Louis."** Sen. Kurtis Gregory, R-Marshall, carried HB 3231 in the Senate.

After the tornado

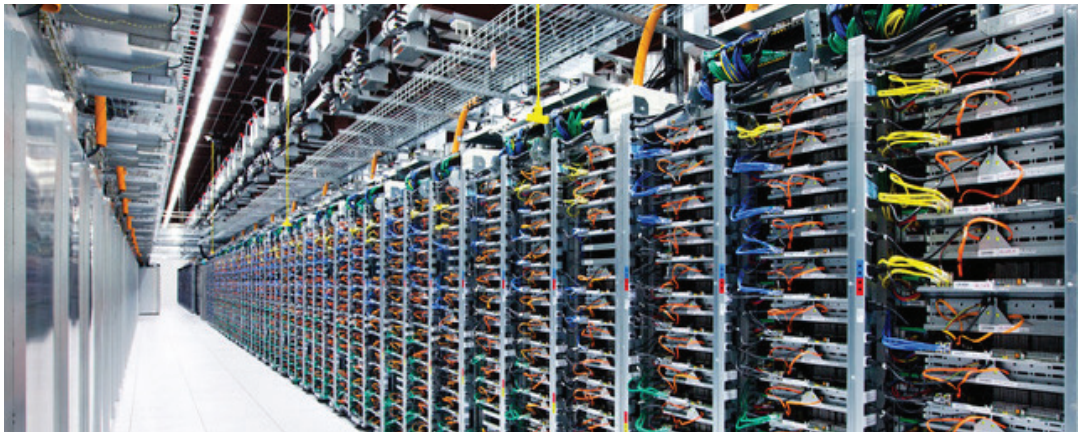
The May 16, 2025, storm destroyed or damaged thousands of homes. Lawmakers put $100 million into disaster relief for the city and $25 million into emergency housing aid in a June special session, and Senate Bill 4 made it usable: it lets the state move aid as soon as the governor requests a federal disaster declaration and raises the income limit so working families qualify. Christ, an insurance broker by trade, was its House handler.



Before the vote, Rep. Kimberly-Ann Collins, D-St. Louis, whose own roof was torn off by the tornado, told her colleagues they "just [don't] know" how much the South County Republican had done in the weeks since, describing "the amount of text messages" he sent as her neighborhood dug out. "I never thought that I would develop a bond with you," she said, looking at Christ. "Never."

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RATE INCREASES, CONSUMER PROTECTIONS & DATA CENTERS



Ameren wants another 10 percent. Brad Christ filed his opposition, voted for the law that limits how fast rates can grow, and is pushing to make sure data centers pay their own way — not you.

Every household in the 96th District gets the same envelope from Ameren Missouri. In June 2025 the number inside went up 12 percent. Now Ameren is asking the Missouri Public Service Commission for roughly 10 percent more — about $13 a month on an average residential bill, and the utility's third increase in five years.

State Rep. Brad Christ is on the record against it. On Sept. 10 he filed formal comments opposing the increase in PSC File No. ER-2026-0291, the case that will decide how much of Ameren's $343 million request reaches customers' bills.

"I get the same bill my neighbors do," Christ said. "Families in Crestwood, Fenton and across St. Louis County should not absorb another double-digit increase without the Commission going through every line of this request. **Ameren can ask for whatever it wants. The Commission decides what it gets."**

What a State Representative Can Actually Do

A rate case is decided by the five-member Public Service Commission, not the legislature. But the rules the Commission follows are written in Jefferson City.

In 2025, Christ voted for Senate Bill 4, the most significant rewrite of Missouri utility law in a decade. **It passed with bipartisan support, including 23 House Democrats.** It took effect Aug. 28, 2025 — before Ameren filed its current request.

SB 4 did not stop Ameren from asking for more money. What it did was put a ceiling and a watchdog on the process:

- **A limit on how fast rates can grow.** Average overall electric rates cannot rise faster than 2.25 percent a year. A 10 percent request does not automatically become a 10 percent bill.
- **Refunds for plants that never get built.** If customers pay for a plant under construction that is never finished, that money is subject to refund.
- **More money for the ratepayer's lawyer.** SB 4 increased funding for the Office of Public Counsel, the state agency that represents customers in rate cases.
- **Federal tax savings go to customers.** When a utility's federal tax bill drops, the savings go to ratepayers, not shareholders.

"Ameren raised rates before SB 4 and was going to keep doing it," Christ said. "I voted for the law that limits how fast their rates can grow. They can ask for 10 percent. The law I voted for decides what they get."

The Number Nobody Is Talking About

Buried in Ameren's own testimony is a figure that matters more than the 10 percent. Ameren projects its electricity sales could grow more than 60 percent over five years, driven almost entirely by data centers and other very large new customers.

See DATA CENTERS/Page 14

A CONVERSATION WITH ERIN CHRIST: THE WOMAN WHO KNOWS BRAD BEST

Four kids, four sessions in Jefferson City, and one very hard year. Brad Christ's wife talks about what life in the 96th District looks like from the kitchen table.



Campaign season tends to put one person on every piece of literature and yard sign. But anyone who has raised a family knows that behind a candidate who can spend five months a year in Jefferson City is someone at home holding everything else together.

For State Rep. Brad Christ, that someone is Erin. She is the mother of their four children — Vivian, Hazel, Olive and George — a parishioner at St. Catherine Labouré, and the person who has watched Brad go from a risk consultant who had never run for anything to a four-year veteran of the Missouri House.

She does not seek the spotlight. She agreed to sit down with us anyway, on the condition that the conversation be about the family and the job, and not a campaign speech. Her answers have been lightly edited for length.

Reporter: Let's start at the beginning. Brad was in the insurance and risk business before he ran in 2022. What did you think when he first told you he wanted to run for the House?

Erin Christ: My first reaction was probably the same as any wife with a house full of kids "With what time?" Our youngest was still in diapers and Brad was working full time. But I knew why he wanted to do it. He had spent his whole career helping companies figure out what could go wrong and how to fix it, and he kept looking at Jefferson City and saying, "Somebody

See ERIN CHRIST INTERVIEW/Page 12

WHEN NEIGHBORS CALLED, CHRIST ANSWERED: HOW A 105-FOOT CELL TOWER NEXT TO A SCHOOL GOT STOPPED

A proposed T-Mobile tower at St. Catherine Labouré had cleared the county Planning Commission before most families knew it existed. Brad Christ helped make sure they found out in time.



In December, families near St. Catherine Labouré Parish learned that a 105-foot cell tower was about to be approved for the church parking lot — steps from the parish school and about 15 feet from the nearest home.

The project had already passed the St. Louis County Planning Commission.

Constituents called State Rep. Brad Christ, a St. Catherine parishioner himself.

"Some families received postcards, but only after key steps in the approval process had already taken place," Christ said in a public statement. **"The public notice was published on a website for professionals, where access to its paper edition requires a $199 annual subscription. This public notice was anything but public."**

His statement told residents when and where the Council would meet and how to sign up to speak. He also called Councilman Dennis Hancock, who agreed the project needed more public input and slowed it down.

Neighbors filled the chamber, and the pressure worked. After listening to neighbors and school parents, the pastor chose not to enter into the contract and withdrew the proposal.

Bob Cochin of Sappington said, "We got a postcard after the Planning Commission had already voted. If Brad hadn't put out that statement with the date and the time and told us to sign up outside the chamber, half the people in that room wouldn't have been there. He didn't grandstand. He just made sure we got our say — and it turns out that was enough."

"Nobody at the parish or the county set out to hide anything. But the way public notice works right now, a project can go all the way through a Planning Commission with the people most affected never hearing about it," Christ said.

"My job is to make sure the families who live and send their kids to school there get a real chance to be heard. This time they were." - Chris Howard

FRANKLIN COUNTY GOT OUT. CHRIST SAYS ST. LOUIS COUNTY SHOULD BE NEXT

GVIP
Gateway Vehicle Inspection Program

A $24 test that 98 percent of cars pass costs South County families hours and dollars every year. Rep. Brad Christ is asking the state to exempt St. Louis County the same way it exempted Franklin County in 2022 — and he is collecting signatures to make the case.

Every year or two, a South County family carves time out of a workday or a Saturday, drives to a repair shop, waits in line, pays $24, and gets a piece of paper confirming what they already knew: their car is fine.

In fiscal 2023, the state tested 765,799 vehicles in the St. Louis region. Fewer than 15,500 failed on the first try. **That is a 98 percent pass rate — and roughly $18 million a year in fees.**
State Rep. Brad Christ thinks St. Louis County has paid enough.

"Franklin County got out of this program four years ago," Christ said. "Their air didn't get worse. I'm asking the state to give St. Louis County families the same deal it gave the families 30 miles west of us."

The Franklin County Precedent

Missouri's emissions program, which dates to 1984, once covered Franklin County too. At the state's request, the EPA agreed to reclassify most of the county, and in 2022 the Missouri Air Conservation Commission removed it from the testing program. Franklin County drivers have not taken an emissions test since July 1, 2022.

St. Louis County stayed in. State and regional officials say the reason comes down largely to a single air-quality monitor at West Alton in St. Charles County, near a power plant — miles from where most St. Louis County residents live and drive.

See EMMISIONS EXEMPTION/Page 10

MISSOURI'S $4.7 BILLION BIPARTISAN SURPRISE: HOW THE STATE CUT TAXES AND STILL SET RECORDS FOR SCHOOL FUNDING

Six years of numbers most people in Jefferson City never expected to see — and the votes from both parties that made them possible.

The Missouri budget story often gets told as a partisan victory lap. The numbers tell a different story: a state that let taxpayers keep more of their money, watched the economy respond, and used the growth to fund schools, health care and roads — with Republicans and Democrats voting together on most of the big decisions.

State Rep. Brad Christ, who sits on the House Special Committee on Tax Policy, says that is the record he wants 96th District voters to judge.



"People in South County are not anti-government. They want the schools funded and the roads fixed," Christ said. "What they do not want is waste. Missouri just spent six years proving you can keep taxes reasonable and fund the priorities if you manage the money carefully."

The Revenue Record

In fiscal year 2020, Missouri collected $8.9 billion in net general revenue. For the fiscal year that ended June 30, the figure is projected at about $13.6 billion — up 53 percent. Over the same stretch, lawmakers cut the top income tax rate and enacted tax changes worth more than $1.8 billion a year, including eliminating the state income tax on Social Security benefits.

The state did not go broke. **Missouri added 95,700 jobs in 2024, the most of any state on a net basis, according to Missouri Partnership.** And the state remains about $4.9 billion below the Hancock Amendment's constitutional revenue cap. **For every $1 in tax cuts, state revenue went up $2.50.**

"I'm a businessman. I look at the top line and the bottom line," Christ said. "The top line is up 53 percent while the tax rate went down. That's not luck. When people keep more of what they earn, they spend it, invest it and hire with it."

Where the Money Went: Schools

The clearest beneficiary has been public education. The fiscal 2027 budget commits a record $4.7 billion in general revenue to K-12 schools — $8.6 billion with federal and other funds. The constitution requires that at least 25 percent of general revenue go to schools. The state is now spending about 31 percent.

The foundation formula is fully funded at $4.27 billion, up 27 percent since 2020. For Lindbergh Schools, state revenue rose from $10.4 million in 2021-22 to $19.5 million in 2025-26.

"Nobody made us do that," Christ said. "We were able to make it happen because tax cuts grew the economy, and because a family in Crestwood or Sunset Hills expects their state to fund the schools first."

Where the Money Went: Health Care

The other place the growth went is Medicaid. In 2020, Missouri voters — including a majority in the 96th District — approved Medicaid expansion, and the legislature is constitutionally obligated to fund it.

It has cost far more than projected. Before the vote, the Missouri Budget Project estimated expansion would save the state $117 million. Instead, general revenue spending on Medicaid grew 87 percent, from $1.97 billion to $3.68 billion an 87 percent increase, and total Medicaid spending nearly doubled. Enrollment grew from roughly 850,000 Missourians to more than 1.2 million, with the expansion population of about 365,000 adults accounting for the growth. **At $20.07 billion in fiscal 2026, Medicaid is now the largest line in the state budget — more than twice the entire K-12 budget.**

"If we had not grown the revenue base, that overrun would have come out of schools, roads or the rainy-day fund," Christ said. "Instead we covered it and still set a record on education."

Roads and Bridges, Paid for Without Borrowing Against the Future

The third piece is infrastructure. **Since 2019, Missouri has committed more than $7 billion to highways and bridges on top of MoDOT's regular budget**. The Focus on Bridges program repaired or replaced 250 bridges, and recent budgets funded a $2.8 billion rebuild of Interstate 70 and a $748 million expansion of I-44.

Those were not party-line votes. The I-70 budget passed the Senate 29-4 and the House 151-4.

"There was a window where the federal money and our own revenue growth lined up, and Republicans and Democrats made the decision to put it into concrete and steel," Christ said. "That was the right call. I-70 and I-44 are going to be carrying South County families to work and Missouri freight to every corner of the country, long after the people who voted for them are gone."

Missouri by the Numbers: Lower Taxes, Higher Revenue, Record Investment

Measure	Then	Now	Change / Note
Net general revenue	$8.9 billion (FY2020)	$13.6 billion (FY2026 proj.)	+$4.7 billion (+53%)
Top income tax rate	5.4% (2020)	4.7% (2026)	–0.7 points (6.0% in 2014)
K-12 general revenue	$3.54 billion (FY2020)	$4.7 billion (FY2027)	+$1.2 billion (+33%); 31% of GR vs. 25% required
K-12 all funds	$7.5 billion (FY2021)	$8.6 billion (FY2027)	+$1.1 billion; record
Medicaid, all funds	$11.05 billion (FY2020)	$20.07 billion (FY2026)	+$9.0 billion (+82%); largest item in the budget
Medicaid enrollment (June)	939,919 (2020)	1,242,283 (2025)	+302,000 (+32%); peaked at 1.52 million in 2023
Highways and bridges, GR	About $50 million (FY2020, Focus on Bridges)	$7 billion+ since 2019	Above MoDOT's regular budget; GR, federal recovery funds and bonds
Net job growth	—	95,700 jobs (2024)	No. 1 in the nation (Missouri Partnership)
Room under Hancock cap	—	About $4.9 billion	Below constitutional limit

Sources: Missouri Office of Administration general revenue reports; Missouri House Budget Fast Facts (DESE and MO HealthNet appropriated totals, after veto; June eligibles); FY2027 appropriations; MoDOT; Missouri Partnership. K-12 all-funds "then" uses FY2021 because the FY2020 total was inflated by one-time federal pandemic aid. Medicaid figures are appropriated totals, not final claims expenditures. FY2026 Medicaid enrollment not yet final.

A Record Built With Both Parties

Republicans have led Missouri's push to cut taxes, but not alone. In 2022, Democrats including then-Senate Minority Leader John Rizzo backed the income tax rate cuts. In 2023, every Democratic senator — including Sen. Doug Beck of Affton, whose district borders the 96th — voted to eliminate income limits on the Social Security deduction. And in 2025, nearly half of Senate Democrats voted to eliminate the state income tax on capital gains.

The same is true of finding savings. The 2026 Social Services budget, which added staff and tools to root out Medicaid fraud, passed the House 138-11 with 47 Democrats voting yes. When the fiscal 2027 higher-education budget trimmed several university programs and a scholarship line, 28 House Democrats voted for it anyway.

"Republicans and Democrats know a dollar going to fraud is a dollar not going to a classroom," Christ said.

See BIPARTISAN BUDGET/Page 9

The $1.5 Million Bookkeeping Mistake: How Brad Christ Fixed a 2005 Accounting Quirk That Shortchanged Lindbergh Every Year

A one-paragraph provision he helped put into Senate Bill 727 corrected an 18-year-old error in the school funding formula that was costing Lindbergh Schools about $1.5 million a year in state aid — and the bill passed the House with zero votes to spare.

Every year since 2007, Missouri has calculated how much state money Lindbergh Schools should receive using a number frozen in time: what the district collected in local taxes back in 2005. And every year since 2007, that number has been about $1.5 million too high.

Rep. Brad Christ helped fix it in 2024. The fix took one paragraph of state law, and it will put roughly $1.5 million a year into Lindbergh classrooms for as long as the formula exists.

How the formula works

Missouri's school funding formula starts with a target, the amount the state says it should cost to educate one student — $7,774 for Lindbergh, with a cost-of-living adjustment for St. Louis County. The state multiplies that by the district's weighted attendance, then subtracts "local effort," the money the district's own tax base was raising when the formula was written in 2005. Whatever is left is the state's check.

That is why a wealthy district like Lindbergh, with a local effort figure of about $36 million, gets a small state check while a rural district gets a large one.

The quirk

When the state set local effort figures in 2005, it counted certain minor revenues, such as the merchants' and manufacturers' surtax on business inventory, only if a district had booked them in its operating funds. Districts that had parked the same dollars in a building or debt fund got a lower local effort figure, and a bigger state check, every year afterward. Lindbergh had booked $1.53 million of those revenues to its operating funds in 2005, before anyone was thinking about a new formula. Once the formula locked in, that amount was subtracted from Lindbergh's state aid every year for 18 years. A district that made the opposite bookkeeping choice paid no such penalty.

"Dr. Lake called me and walked me through it," Christ said. "Nobody had done anything wrong; the state just never went back and fixed it. Once I understood the math, it was obvious this was a mistake, not a policy choice. I got to work and Section 163.096 made it into Senate Bill 727. That $1.5 million goes to Lindbergh classrooms every year now, and it never expires."

The fix

Section 163.096 directs the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to recalculate local effort for affected districts "as if" the 2005 revenues had been placed in the capital projects or debt service fund, starting with payments after Aug. 28, 2024.

DESE's records show Lindbergh's local effort dropped by $1,517,948 between the 2024 and 2025 payment years, and because state aid is the target minus local effort, every dollar of that reduction became a dollar of state aid. The statewide cost is about $14.1 million a year; Kirkwood, Springfield and Ritenour were among the other districts affected.

"This wasn't a new program or a special favor," Christ said. "It was a mistake in how the state was doing the math, and Lindbergh taxpayers had been paying for it since before I was in the legislature. Listening to our local school leaders and working together is what made it possible."

What it added up to

The fix is one piece of a much larger shift. Accord-

See $1.5 BOOKKEEPING MISTAKE/Page 15

REGIONAL LEADER

From Page 3

Rep. Raychel Proudie, D-Ferguson, thanked **"the gentleman from St. Louis County" for "coming down to St. Louis and getting his shoes and elbows dirty with his shiny self." "We appreciate you,"** she said.

Kehoe signed the package June 14, 2025.

The downtown bill

HB 3231 was written with the vacant AT&T tower and the Railway Exchange Building in mind. It revives the downtown stimulus program that helped build Ballpark Village and offers up to $50 million a year in tax credits for converting old office buildings into apartments. None of the incentives cost the state a dime until private money is invested first.

"We need to get real serious about economic development in the state," Christ told the Jefferson City News-Tribune. "I think you'd be nuts, if you're a city, to not take advantage of this bill."

Getting it through a rural-dominated House took more than a good idea. At the insistence of House Majority Leader Alex Riley, Christ rewrote the bill to apply statewide. A quarter of the office-conversion credits are reserved for Main Street districts, and smaller towns get a richer credit.

"Those provisions were designed to give legislators outside St. Louis a tangible reason to support the bill," Drebes wrote. "The final House vote, 119-24, showed the approach hit its mark."

Working both sides of the aisle

The downtown bill was not handed to the city's Democrats as a finished product. Sen. Steven Roberts, D-St. Louis, helped vet the language as it moved, according to Drebes. Mayor Spencer's administration backed it, Greater St. Louis Inc. lobbied for it, and Missouri Main Street Connection built support in small towns.

Drebes' larger point is that on major economic issues, St. Louis now "effectively has two delegations": the legislators the city elects, and the business groups, developers, and unions who can find Republican sponsors. Twice in twelve months, that sponsor was the same man. Next year, he may be setting the House calendar.

A seat at the leadership table

Christ is running for House majority floor leader, the chamber's No. 2 post, which comes open after the November election, when Riley is expected to become speaker.

The majority floor leader decides which bills are debated and when — which in practice decides which bills live and die. A St. Louis-area Republican in that chair would be in the room when those calls are made, for the first time in years.

The record suggests what kind of floor leader Christ would be. Both of his signature bills started with St. Louis Democrats and civic leaders at the drafting table, were rewritten to give rural members something to take home, and passed with margins that no one had to apologize for. Rural Republicans followed him because he asked them to vote for a Missouri bill that happened to save St. Louis. City Democrats trusted him because he showed up in their districts before he asked for anything.

Christ Earns Backing of Police, Firefighters and Job Creators in House Race

State Rep. Brad Christ has earned endorsements from nine organizations representing law enforcement, firefighters, nurses, working families, and job creators in his campaign for re-election to Missouri House District 96: the Missouri Fraternal Order of Police, the St. Louis County Police Association, the Missouri State Council of Fire Fighters, the Missouri Nurses Association PAC, the Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council, Laborers' Local 110, the Missouri Chamber of Commerce PAC, the National Federation of Independent Business, and MO Tax Relief Now.

"The people who run into burning buildings and answer the 911 calls in South County don't endorse a candidate because he says nice things about them at a parade," said campaign manager Nick Adams. "They endorse him because he showed up for them in Jefferson City. Brad's record earned every one of these."

The groups' own endorsements point to specific pieces of that record.

"Since joining the Missouri House, Brad has made public safety a defining priority," said **Joe Patterson, executive director of the St. Louis County Police Association.** *"Brad has tackled violent crime, dangerous street takeovers, repeat offenders, law-enforcement resources, and accountability within our criminal justice system. Brad has also championed efforts to recruit and retain quality officers and expand educational opportunities for first responders and their families. Most importantly, Brad doesn't just talk about supporting law enforcement—Brad listens, shows up, and takes action."*

"Brad has demonstrated a strong commitment to the men and women of law enforcement and to keeping Missouri communities safe," said **Jay Schroeder of the Missouri Fraternal Order of Police.** *"We appreciate his support for those who put on the badge each day."*

In its endorsement letter, the Missouri State Council of Fire Fighters told Christ he has *"proven to be an advocate for public safety and Missouri's Fire Fighters," citing his work alongside its members on legislation addressing critical illness, cancer, mental health, recruitment and retention, line-of-duty death benefits, and fair bargaining. That record, wrote* **Cory Hogan, vice president of IAFF Local 2665** *and the state council, shows Christ "will stand with first responders when it matters."*

The Missouri Nurses Association PAC also endorsed Christ. **Chair Terry Reese** cited his *"recognition of the important role nurses play in Missouri's healthcare system" and his attention to issues affecting nurses, patients, and access to care.*

"Our members build the schools, hospitals, and homes of St. Louis County, and for too long we've been undercut by contractors running off-the-books crews and cheating the men and women who do the work," said **Mark Dalton, assistant political director of the Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council.** *"Brad didn't just talk about it — he sponsored the bill to crack down on construction fraud, carried it through committee 9-0, and helped get it signed into law this summer." Dalton said Christ "judges a bill by what it does for working people, not by which party wrote it," and that Carpenters members will be knocking doors for him this fall.*

"Brad doesn't care whether an idea comes from a Republican or a Democrat, only whether it works for the people doing the work," said **Clint McBride, government affairs director of Laborers' Local 110.** *"That's how he got the Intern and Apprentice Recruitment Act signed into law — bringing on the next generation of skilled Missouri workers. He picks up the phone, he listens, and he doesn't forget who builds this state."*

The Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry also pointed to the apprenticeship law. *"When businesses were struggling to build their workforce, Brad stepped up with the Intern and Apprentice Recruitment Act, and that law is now helping Missouri employers hire and train the next generation of talent here in the Show-Me state," the Chamber said. "Missouri employers have a trusted and capable ally in Representative Brad Christ."*

"Small business owners in St. Louis County don't need a lecture about the economy — they need someone in Jefferson City who understands what it takes to make payroll. Brad does," said **Brad Jones, Missouri state director of NFIB.** Jones cited Christ's vote to make Missouri the first state to eliminate the capital gains tax, his work carrying workers' compensation reform through the House, and the Missouri Innovation Act, which Christ wrote and passed this year. *"Brad Christ has a record, not just a platform, and NFIB's members in District 96 are behind him."*

"Brad Christ is an unapologetic taxpayer warrior," said **Dennis Ganahl, founder and CEO of MO Tax Relief Now.** *"He goes out every day looking for ways to lower taxes, and make government accountable."*

Christ, a St. Louis County native who grew up in Shrewsbury, is Vice President of Business Insurance and Health/Benefits at Crane Agency. He and his wife, Erin, live in Sappington with their four children.

"When the police, the firefighters, the nurses, the carpenters and laborers, the Chamber, small business, and the taxpayer watchdogs all land on the same candidate, that tells voters everything they need to know," Adams said. "District 96 deserves a representative who has already proven he can deliver, and that's Brad Christ."

Letters to the EDITOR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

Car Title

To the Editor:
I want to tell your readers what happened when I called Brad Christ's office.

Last spring I bought a used truck from a private seller. Somewhere between the seller, the lender and the license office, the title vanished. I spent four weeks waiting on the Department of Revenue, drove to the license office twice, and got a different answer both trips. Meanwhile I had a truck in my driveway I could not legally drive and temporary tags about to expire.

A neighbor told me to call my state representative. I honestly did not think that was what they were for. I was wrong. Brad's office took my information the same day. The next day someone from his staff called back to say they had spoken with the Department of Revenue, found the paperwork stuck between two offices, and had it moving again. My title arrived five days later.

Nobody made a speech. Nobody asked me who I voted for. They just fixed it.

I know Brad works on the big issues in Jefferson City, and I appreciate that. But what I will remember is that when one family in Fenton had a problem the state created, his office treated it like it mattered. That is what a representative is supposed to do.

— Will - Fenton

Backs the Badge

To the Editor:
I have lived in Sunset Hills for 12 years, and I have met a lot of politicians who talk. Brad Christ is one of the few who listens first.

When our neighborhood had concerns about speeding on Lindbergh Blvd., Brad did not send a form letter. He showed up, sat in the back of the room, and let people talk. Then he went and did something about it.

I also appreciate that he has been consistent on public safety. When it was fashionable to talk about defunding the police, Brad did not go along with it. He sponsored the bill to put the St. Louis police back under a state board so officers could do their jobs without political interference, and he handled the truth-in-sentencing law this year so that a judge's sentence means what it says. He has supported better pay and legal protections for officers and their families.

I have family members who serve in law enforcement and I can tell you that officers notice which elected officials have their backs on the hard days, not just at the parade. Brad is one of them.

He is a father of four raising his kids in this district. He wants the same thing the rest of us want: safe streets and good schools. That is why he has my vote.

— Janice - Sunset Hills

Ameren and Property Taxes

To the Editor:
Seems my electric bill just keeps going up. And every other December my property assessment seems to jump without anyone from the county ever setting foot on my street.

I am writing because Brad Christ is the one elected official I have seen actually do something about both.

On Ameren, Brad did not just complain. He filed formal opposition to the rate increase with the Public Service Commission and asked the Commission to go through the request line by line. He voted for the law that caps how fast Ameren's rates can grow and that funds the state office whose only job is to fight for ratepayers. And he has been clear that if a data center ever comes to St. Louis County, it pays its own way, not us.

On property taxes, Brad chaired the House committee on property tax reform, voted to end the yearly reapplication for the senior freeze, and when the Senate ran out the clock in May, he asked the governor for a special session to finish the job. He also went to work with the County Council, which just ended the reapplication headache for seniors here at home.

I do not agree with every politician on everything. But when a representative fights the utility company and the assessor on behalf of the people paying the bills, that is somebody worth keeping.

— Russ - Sappington

The Emissions Test

To the Editor:
Last month I took a half day off work to get my car emissions-tested. I called three shops before I found one 45 minutes away that could take me, waited an hour, paid $24, and was handed a slip of paper saying my car passed. It always passes. I think most of them do.

Franklin County stopped requiring this test in 2022. Their air did not get worse. But families in St. Louis County are still paying the fee and burning the hours. Brad Christ is the first representative I have seen take this seriously. He is not asking for anything Franklin County did not already get. He is asking the state to exempt St. Louis County the same way, and he has started a petition so the governor and the Air Conservation Commission can see how many of us want out. I signed it and would recommend we all do- bradchristformo.com.

For a family trying to deal with higher prices, $24 and a morning off is real money. For a retiree who does not drive much anymore, it is a real hassle. And for a test that fails one car in fifty, it is hard to see what we are getting for it. Thank you, Brad, for noticing.

— Denise - Fenton

Prior Authorization Reform: Getting Insurance Companies Out of Your Doctor's Office

House Bill 3010 would stop insurance companies from overruling the doctors who actually treat patients. It passed the House 143-1 — and then stalled in the Senate. Christ says it is unfinished business.

Your doctor examines you and decides you need a specific medication, test or treatment. Your insurance company then requires "prior authorization" — a process that can take days, weeks or months, while you go without the care your physician recommended.

The data is sobering. **According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, 47 percent of insured adults report that an insurance company has delayed, denied, or altered a doctor-prescribed service in the past two years.** For patients with chronic conditions, it rises to 57 percent. In the American Medical Association's 2026 physician survey, **26 percent of physicians reported that prior authorization delays had resulted in a serious adverse event** — hospitalization, permanent impairment or death — for a patient in their care. And when doctors appeal, **81 percent of denials are overturned** — the insurer was wrong four times out of five.

House Bill 3010: What It Does

Rep. Melanie Stinnett (R-Springfield), a speech-language pathologist, sponsored HB 3010 in 2026 with co-sponsors from both parties, including Rep. Jeremy Dean (D-Springfield) and Rep. George Hruza (R-Chesterfield), a St. Louis County dermatologist. It passed the House on March 12, 2026, by a vote of 143-1 — one of the most lopsided margins of the session — then stalled in the Senate Insurance and Banking Committee amid strong opposition from insurance lobbyists.

During floor debate, Rep. Gregg Bush (D-Columbia), a registered nurse, urged his colleagues to pass the bill.

"Right now, in each one of our districts, there is somebody who is sick and injured who's going into a hospital, who's going into a clinic, and instead of the clinician or health care provider being able to treat our citizens who are sick and injured, they're on the phone with someone far away who's never even laid eyes on the patient, who's never even been around the person who is sick and injured, and is telling our health care providers what they can and can't do," Bush said.

Members on both sides of the aisle recounted stories from constituents about treatments denied or delayed, and support for the bill grew the longer the debate went on.

"When 143 members of the House agree on something, it usually means everybody's heard about the problem from their own constituents," Christ said.

"I've had people in Sunset Hills and Crestwood tell me they waited weeks for an MRI or a prescription their doctor ordered. That is not how medicine is supposed to work."

HB 3010 reforms prior authorization through six specific mechanisms:

- **Gold Carding:** Physicians with a 90 percent or higher approval rate are exempt from prior authorization. Missouri's version evaluates doctors by broad service category, closing the loophole Texas insurers used to disqualify providers on technicalities.
- **Automatic Approvals:** If an insurer misses its legal deadline, the service is automatically approved.
- **Chronic Illness Continuity:** Approvals for ongoing chronic-condition treatments stay valid for at least six months.
- **Payment Protection:** Once a service is authorized, insurers cannot retroactively deny payment unless fraud or failure to perform is proven.
- **180-Day Continuity:** When a patient switches insurers, the new carrier must honor existing authorizations for 180 days.
- **Mandatory Electronic API:** By Jan. 1, 2027, insurers must use a standardized digital system — no more claiming they "never received" a fax.

See PRIOR AUTHORIZATION/Page 15



BIPARTISAN BUDGET

From Page 5

Mark Mountford, of Sunset Hills said "I don't want my taxes going up, and I don't want the schools shortchanged. Brad is one of the reasonable Republicans. He watches out for our tax dollars, but he'll work with Democrats and use common sense to make sure the programs that matter get funded. That's what I want from the person representing me."

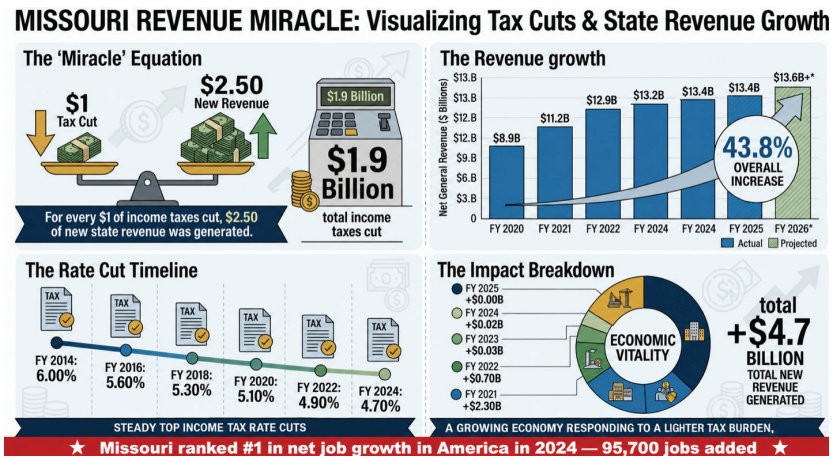
The Discipline Behind the Growth

Christ is quick to say the growth is not guaranteed. Revenue flattened in fiscal 2026. The legislature returned the fiscal 2027 budget $3.7 billion below the governor's request, leaving about $600 million in reserve.

"The easy thing in an election year is to spend every dollar," Christ said. "The responsible thing is to fund the priorities, put some away, and say no to the rest. I'd rather explain a $600 million reserve to a voter than explain a withhold to a superintendent in February."

For a district that wants both good schools and a government that lives within its means, Christ says that balance is what drives him.

"Let people keep more of their money, grow the economy, invest in the future, and cut what doesn't work," Christ said. "Both parties helped do that, and I intend to keep doing it."



Year Two of Missouri's Classroom Phone Ban: Teachers Say Learning Is Back

One year after Missouri's "bell-to-bell" cellphone law took effect, Lindbergh teachers and parents say it has done what a decade of classroom-by-classroom rules could not: put phones away and put attention back on the lesson.

The law, part of Senate Bill 68, requires every Missouri public and charter school to bar students from using cellphones, smartwatches and other devices during the school day — including class time, lunch and passing periods. It took effect with the 2025-26 school year.

State Rep. Brad Christ (R-Sunset Hills), whose 96th District includes much of the Lindbergh community, supported the measure.

"I heard from teachers for years who were spending the first 10 minutes of every class fighting over phones instead of teaching," Christ said. "Now the rule is the same in every building in the state. Teachers teach, kids learn, and nobody has to be the bad guy."

Alex Higgins a teacher at John Warner Middle School in Columbia said thanks to the new state law, his classroom had far less distractions and far fewer phones. "Now it's a very clear line of: No. Your phone cannot be out no matter what it is."

The law leaves the details to local districts and makes exceptions for students with IEPs or 504 plans, for emergencies, and for classroom use directed by a teacher.

Lindbergh administrators said many teachers were "secretly quite happy" to have a state mandate behind them, though teachers stressed that it works only with consistent enforcement from building administrators.

Most parents backed the rule. **The main concern from some parents involved reaching a child in an emergency. Lindbergh has reminded families that school office lines remain open and that the law expressly allows phone use in a genuine emergency.**

"No parent should ever wonder whether they can reach their child," Christ said. "The law is clear that emergencies come first. What we've taken away isn't a lifeline. It's the group chat during algebra."

SB 68 passed the Senate 29-5 and the House 132-20, and Missouri is now one of about two dozen states with a bell-to-bell restriction.

A February 2025 SLU/YouGov poll found more than 70 percent of likely Missouri voters favored keeping phones out of instructional time, with support crossing party lines.

The coalition behind the bill was just as broad: the Missouri National Education Association, the more conservative Missouri State Teachers Association, the Missouri School Boards' Association, and ExcelinEd in Action, the advocacy arm of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush's education foundation.

"When the NEA and the MSTA both show up to testify for the same bill, you know it isn't a partisan issue," Christ said.

Teachers and students elsewhere in Missouri seem to agree.



"It's been the best change Missouri could have possibly made," Lutie R-VI social studies teacher Heath Treat said. "Students are engaged, more social, and bullying issues can now be more easily and readily addressed."

"I think my brain is more relaxed and refreshed," Kirkwood High School senior Maggie Dunn told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

See CELLPHONE BAN/Page 16

EMISSIONS EXEMPTION

From Page 4



"The county that got exempted and the county that didn't are separated by a line on a map, not by the air," Christ said. "If the Air Conservation Commission could do it for Franklin County, it can do it for us."

What the Test Actually Costs a Family

The $24 fee is the smallest part. **The state's own numbers show inspection stations disappearing — from 823 in 2020 to 746 in 2025 — which means longer drives and longer waits.** A typical trip runs about three hours. At $25 an hour, that is $75 in lost time on top of the fee, and it doubles if a car fails and has to come back.

Across three-quarters of a million tests, the regional cost runs from roughly $39 million to more than $115 million a year, according to an analysis by Christ's office.

"For a family living paycheck to paycheck, $24 and a morning off work is not nothing," Christ said. "And we're doing it to find the one car in 50 that has a problem."

Hank Verplank, of Crestwood said the last test cost him more than just the fee. "I took a half day off, drove to two shops before I found one that could take me, and sat there for an hour and a half. My car passed. It always passes. I don't understand why Franklin County doesn't have to do this and we do."

A Bipartisan Idea That Keeps Coming Back

Christ is not the first to try. In 2021, a bill to end testing in St. Charles, Jefferson and Franklin counties passed the Senate 29-3 and cleared both chambers before Gov. Mike Parson vetoed it over concerns the EPA could withhold federal highway money.

See EMISSIONS EXEMPTION/Page 11

FIGHTING CRIME: CHRIST CARRIES TRUTH-IN-SENTENCING LAW ACROSS THE FINISH LINE — "REAL TIME FOR REAL CRIMES"

Christ filed the House version, handled Senate Bill 888 on the House floor, and won votes from both parties — the new law ends "catch and release" for violent juvenile offenders.

When a judge sentences a violent offender to ten years and that person is back on the street in three, victims and law enforcement notice. **Senate Bill 888** — one of the most comprehensive crime measures passed this session — addresses that problem directly. Rep. Brad Christ (R-Sunset Hills) filed his own House legislation, then served as the House handler who carried SB 888 through committee and floor debate. It was signed into law April 7.



Truth in Sentencing: Sentences Should Mean What They Say

The provisions rest on a simple premise: sentences handed down by judges should mean what they say. The new law replaces flexible parole board timelines with fixed minimums tied to the severity of the crime — offenders convicted of dangerous felonies must now serve at least 85 percent of their sentence before parole eligibility. It eliminates early conditional release for specified violent offenders, broadens the dangerous felony list to cover more severe sexual offenses and human trafficking, and makes a third sex offender registry violation a Class A felony. Victims get predictable knowledge of how long a perpetrator stays behind bars.

Cole County Prosecuting Attorney Locke Thompson told the House committee why it matters.

> **"We see, often, victims being told, 'Oh, hey, your attacker's out. They got sentenced to 15 years and they're out in two or three,'" Thompson said, adding that those victims "feel like they've been victimized all over again."**

Ending Catch and Release for Violent Juveniles

Just as important, SB 888 confronts a problem families have watched with growing frustration: young offenders committing violent crimes, being released because of their age, and offending again — sometimes almost immediately. Attorney General Catherine Hanaway called truth in sentencing and juvenile justice "the number one issue I heard from sheriffs, police officers, prosecutors and victims."

"This system is not working for our youth," Christ said on the House floor. "Perpetual release, with no accountability and no rehabilitation."

The new law ends that revolving door. Prosecutors can now initiate proceedings to try juveniles 14 and older as adults for serious felonies — previously, only a juvenile officer or the court could. **A new statewide juvenile criminal history system means a violent juvenile's record follows them across county lines, so a repeat offender can no longer look like a first-timer by crossing a jurisdiction.** And counties gain a new tool to add juvenile detention capacity, so "no room to hold them" is no longer why a dangerous young offender goes back to the street.

Votes From Both Sides of the Aisle

Christ closed House debate with a direct appeal: "If you want safe communities, justice for victims of the most heinous crimes, accountability, transparency, and you want to support safety of our law enforcement, you should hammer this yes button."

The House passed the bill 97-53, with Rep. Marlon Anderson (D-St. Louis) joining Republicans in support. In the Senate, which passed it 20-9, St. Louis Democrats Tracy McCreery and Brian Williams crossed the aisle to vote yes. Democratic Sens. Karla May and Barbara Washington negotiated changes with the sponsor that give first-time offenders a shorter path to parole, and those provisions are in the final law.

"Public safety shouldn't be a partisan issue, and on this bill it wasn't," Christ said. "When a Democrat from the city of St. Louis and a Democrat from Kansas City look at the same crime numbers we're looking at and vote yes, that tells you the problem is real."

Backing the Badge

SB 888 is part of a broader record. Christ has supported financial incentives, educational benefits, and legal protections for officers and their families — and when calls to defund the police gained momentum nationally, he was a consistent voice against them.

See FIGHTING CRIME/Page 15

EMISSIONS EXEMPTION

From Page 10

The Franklin County exemption shows a second path that does not run through a bill or a veto: the Department of Natural Resources requests a change, the Air Conservation Commission amends the rule, and the state submits a revised plan to the EPA. That is the route Christ is pursuing.

The Petition

Christ has launched a petition asking the governor, the Air Conservation Commission, the Department of Natural Resources and Missouri's congressional delegation to exempt St. Louis County. Signatures will be delivered before the 2027 legislative session.

Residents can sign online at bradchristformo.com/emissionspetition or return the paper petition mailed to households across the district.

> **"Franklin County didn't get exempted because somebody in Jefferson City woke up one morning and decided to be nice," Christ said. "They got it because their people asked, loudly, and the data backed them up. Our data is just as good. Now we need to be just as loud."**



CHRIST CALLS FOR SPECIAL SESSION ON PROPERTY TAXES: "THE FIX WAS WRITTEN. THE VOTES WERE THERE."

After reform died on the Senate calendar, Rep. Brad Christ asks the Governor to bring lawmakers back — and asks St. Louis County seniors to weigh in.

State Rep. Brad Christ has asked the Governor to call lawmakers back to Jefferson City for a special session on property tax reform, after a package that cleared both chambers by lopsided bipartisan margins collapsed in the final days of the 2026 session.

His Sept. 2 letter lays out a narrow agenda of provisions that already passed one or both chambers — starting with an end to the rule that forces seniors to reapply every year to keep a property tax freeze they have already earned.

"These weren't party-line fights," Christ said. **"Republicans and Democrats agreed the system is broken, and then the clock ran out during a Senate filibuster. In St. Louis County, families opened assessment notices and saw their home values jump overnight, with no inspection, no explanation, and no real way to fight it. We had the fix written and we had the votes. It died on the calendar, not on the merits."**

A Survey for Seniors

Christ has also mailed a Senior Property Tax Survey across the 96th District, asking seniors about the county freeze, whether yearly reapplication has been a burden, and whether they support a special session. It can be returned by mail or completed online at www.bradchristformo.com.

"If you've stood in line at the county building with a folder full of paperwork to prove something you proved last year, I want to know about it," Christ said. "Those stories are what move a bill."

How the Reapplication Problem Started

The issue traces back to Senate Bill 190, signed in 2023, which let counties freeze property taxes for senior homeowners. Christ voted for it. But some counties, including St. Louis County, required seniors to reapply every year — and a single missed form could cost a homeowner hundreds of dollars.

Christ has spent three years on the fix, including chairing the House Special Committee on Property Tax Reform in 2024. This year he voted for House Bill 2780, which ended annual reapplication statewide; the House passed it 133 to 13.

Democrats agreed. House Minority Leader Ashley Aune (D-Kansas City) said in the session's final week that Missourians "are screaming at us for property tax reform. It is a bipartisan issue." "The House did a very thorough job with our road shows and the number of hearings that we had," Rep. Del Taylor (D-St. Louis) said after the vote. "Democrats and Republicans both agree. I would say for that reason the Senate is probably best to follow our lead."



But the bills went to a conference committee in the session's last days, the compromise never got the Senate signatures it needed, and the session adjourned with nothing on the governor's desk.

St. Louis County Acts First

While the statewide fix stalled, St. Louis County moved on its own. The County Council passed an ordinance, introduced by Council members Dennis Hancock and Mark Harder, ending yearly reapplication for seniors already eligible as of Jan. 1, 2026.

"This was not easy," Hancock said. **"Untangling the reapplication mess took months of work, and it does not happen without partners who understand how the whole system fits together. Brad Christ was that partner. When the statewide fix stalled, Brad kept pushing, and that gave us the running room to finish the job here at home."**

County Executive Sam Page did not sign the ordinance, but it became law without his signature and is now in effect.

"I qualified for the St. Louis County senior tax freeze, then was told I'd have to re-qualify every year," Jan De Weese, from Fenton said. "I've been approved twice now, and I see no reason to keep doing it. The County can see from my paid taxes that I still live at the same address. Yearly registration is a waste of my time and the County's money."

What a Special Session Would Cover

Beyond ending senior reapplication, Christ's letter

See PROPERTY TAXES/Page 14

ERIN CHRIST INTERVIEW

From Page 3

needs to bring that mindset up there." I told him if he was going to do it, he had to do it the way he does everything else — all in, and honest. He has.

Reporter: He has been in office four years now. Has the job changed him?

Erin: It has made him more patient, which I did not think was possible for someone who reads budget documents for fun. He has learned that you do not get anything done in that building by yourself. He has told me more than once that some of the best conversations he has had on a bill were with Democrats from Kansas City or Columbia who had the same problem in their district. He came home from the prior authorization bill and said, "A hundred and forty-three to one. That's what it looks like when people quit fighting and start fixing." That is the Brad I married.

Reporter: Walk us through what session actually looks like for your family. He leaves for Jefferson City when?

Erin: Usually Monday afternoon and back Thursday night, January through the middle of May. Sometimes later if there is a late floor session or a committee hearing on a Friday towards the end of session. So for four and a half months, Monday morning through Thursday night is me, four kids, and a calendar that looks like an air traffic control screen.

Reporter: I have to ask about last year. In September 2025, a man was charged with felony harassment after leaving voicemails threatening Brad's life. Brad had cancelled town halls over security concerns before the arrest. You do not have to go into detail, but how did that land at home?

Erin:: I appreciate you saying that, because I am not going to go very far into it. There is an open case, and honestly, I do not want to give that person any more of our family's time than he has already taken.

What I will say is that it was the hardest stretch we have had. When it is your husband, you worry. When you have four children in the house and you are not sure who knows your address, it is a different kind of worry. There were some nights I did not

See ERIN CHRIST INTERVIEW/Page 15

RECORD EDUCATION FUNDING

From Page 1



locally, and sends the difference.

For most of the last 15 years the formula was chronically short. That changed with the FY2021 budget. Total formula funding rose from $3.34 billion in FY2020 to $4.27 billion in FY2026 — **a 27.7 percent increase.**

The FY2027 budget holds the formula at that record. Combined with other K-12 lines, the plan commits a record $4.7 billion in general revenue to public schools — about 31 percent of general revenue, well above the 25 percent the constitution requires

"Holding the formula at a record level in a tight budget year didn't happen by accident," Christ said. "This last year I had to fight members from other parts of the state to keep that momentum going."

Lindbergh Schools — State Revenue Received, FY2021-22 to FY2025-26

Fiscal Year	Total State Revenue	Change Since	Basic Formula Aid	Change Since FY2022	Transportation Aid	Change Since
FY2021-22	$10.44	—	$6.71 million	—	$507,926	—
FY2022-23	$11.17	+6.9%	$6.68 million	-0.4%	$1.24 million	+144.0%
FY2023-24	$11.62	+11.2%	$6.45 million	-4.0%	$1.34 million	+163.3%
FY2024-25	$16.35	+56.5%	$10.42	+55.2%	$1.37 million	+170.7%
FY2025-26	$19.47	+86.5%	$13.58	+102.3%	$1.42 million	+179.9%
Change, FY2022–FY2026	**+$9.03 million**	**+86.5%**	**+$6.87 million**	**+102.3%**	**+$914,000**	**2.8x**

Source: Lindbergh Schools Annual Secretary of the Board Reports filed with DESE; year-end actual revenue received, all funds. Basic Formula is revenue code 5311; Transportation is code 5312. Total state revenue also includes the Classroom Trust Fund, early childhood special education and other state programs.

Transportation: The Line Nobody Talks About

In percentage terms, the bigger story is school transportation. State law says Missouri should reimburse districts for up to 75 percent of busing costs, but for years the legislature funded a fraction of that — $93.2 million in FY2020.

Then the legislature decided to catch up. Transportation aid jumped to $321.4 million in FY2023 and has grown since. **The FY2027 budget pushes it to $376.4 million — roughly four times what it was six years ago.**

Those increases outpaced the worst inflation in four decades. The Consumer Price Index rose 16.1 percent between FY2022 and FY2026, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Over the same four budget years the foundation formula grew 22.9 percent, transportation aid more than tripled, and Lindbergh's state revenue rose 86.5 percent.

"Transportation might not be a glamorous line in the budget," Christ said. "But when the state helps reimburse busing costs, it can mean extra teachers where we need them."

Missouri K-12 School Transportation Aid, FY2020–FY2027

Fiscal Year	State Transportation Aid	Change From Prior Year	Change Since FY2020	Multiple of FY2020
FY2020	$93.2 million	—	—	1.0x
FY2021	$93.9 million	+$0.7 million	+0.8%	1.0x
FY2022	$113.9 million	+$20.0 million	+22.2%	1.2x
FY2023	$321.4 million	+$207.5 million	+244.7%	3.4x
FY2024	$347.3 million	+$25.9 million	+272.5%	3.7x
FY2025	$361.4 million	+$14.1 million	+287.5%	3.9x
FY2026	$361.4 million	$0	+287.5%	3.9x
FY2027	$376.4 million	+$15.0 million	+303.6%	4.0x
Change, FY2020–FY2027	**+$283.1 million**		**+303.6%**	**4.0x**

Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, K-12 transportation appropriations by fiscal year. State law authorizes reimbursement of up to 75 percent of district transportation costs. FY2027 figure is as appropriated.

What It Meant for Lindbergh

Lindbergh has never depended on the state. In 2019, local property taxes covered nearly 89 percent of its operating revenue. From 2007 through 2016, the district was classified as "hold harmless" — its local wealth was deemed to cover its needs, so the state only guaranteed it would not lose money. It came off that status in 2017.

The district's year-end financial filings with DESE show state revenue rising from $10.44 million in FY2021-22 to $19.47 million in FY2025-26. That is an increase of $9.03 million, or 86.5 percent, in four years.

Two things drove the increase, and Christ voted for both. The FY2025 and FY2026 budgets raised the per-student adequacy target from $6,375 to $7,145. And a provision Christ helped secure in Senate Bill 727 corrected a 2005 bookkeeping quirk that had inflated Lindbergh's "local effort" figure — the amount the state subtracts from its aid — by about $1.5 million a year. Both changes flowed straight into Lindbergh's state check.

Transportation aid to Lindbergh rose from $507,926 in FY2021-22 to $1.42 million in FY2025-26 — 2.8 times as much

"Lindbergh taxpayers have carried this district for a long time, and they've done it well," Christ said. "What's changed is that the state is finally holding up its end. We raised the per-student target and fixed a mistake in the formula that was costing Lindbergh $1.5 million a year, and the district's own reports show what happened — nine million more dollars a year, almost double what Lindbergh was getting from Jefferson City. That's real money in a district our size."

The district has used the stability to rebuild reserves. DESE reports Lindbergh's unrestricted ending fund balance at 21.6 percent for 2024-25, up from 17.5 percent the year before.

Missouri K-12 Foundation Formula and Transportation Funding, FY2020–FY2027

Fiscal Year	Formula Total	General Revenue Share	Change in Formula	School Transportation
FY2020	$3.34 billion	$1.94 billion	—	$93.2 million
FY2021	$3.44 billion	$2.01 billion	+2.8%	$93.9 million
FY2022	$3.47 billion	$2.06 billion	+1.0%	$113.9 million
FY2023	$3.58 billion	$2.20 billion	+3.0%	$321.4 million
FY2024	$3.61 billion	$1.99 billion	+0.8%	$347.3 million
FY2025	$3.85 billion	$2.09 billion	+6.6%	$361.4 million
FY2026	$4.27 billion	$2.58 billion	+11.0%	$361.4 million
FY2027	$4.27 billion	$2.58 billion	0.0%	$376.4 million
Change, FY2020–FY2026	**+$925 million**	**+$640 million**	**+27.7%**	**+$268 million (3.9x)**

Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, foundation formula and transportation expenditures by fiscal year. Formula total includes general revenue plus lottery, gaming and other dedicated funds. FY2027 figures are as appropriated.

The Bottom Line

Lindbergh's state revenue nearly doubled in four years, and the district's own reports show most of that gain arriving in the two budgets Christ helped pass.

For a district that spent a decade being told its tax base made it ineligible for more, that is a meaningful change — and one Christ says he intends to protect.

"Every budget I've voted for has put more into Missouri classrooms than the one before it, and Lindbergh's numbers prove it," Christ said. "I'd like to keep that streak going."

DATA CENTERS

From Page 3

Demand on that scale means new power plants and transmission lines. Somebody pays for them. SB 4 was written to decide who.

The law requires large-load customers to pay a representative share of the cost to serve them and bars Ameren from shifting unjust costs onto everyone else. Under the large-load rules the Commission approved in late 2025, a data center pays 100 percent of its own substation, interconnection and interim power, signs a 12-year contract, pays a minimum bill, posts collateral, and pays an exit fee if it leaves early.

"This is exactly why we passed SB 4," Christ said. "We needed rules in place before these enormous new loads came online so the cost of serving them would not simply get spread across everybody else's electric bill."

Closing the Gap

Christ's PSC filing goes a step further. The large-load rules do not directly assign the cost of new power plants built to serve data centers. The Office of Public Counsel asked the Commission to do exactly that. Ameren argued against it.

Christ has taken the Public Counsel's side. His filing asks the Commission to state in this case that the cost of generation built for large loads will be assigned to the large-load class — so that, in his words, **"the families I represent are never asked to finance a power plant built for a data center."**

"Data centers can bring investment and jobs to Missouri, but the families already living here shouldn't get stuck with their electric bill," Christ said. "I'm asking the Commission to settle that question now, before the plants are built, not after."

Christ also asked the Commission to independently verify Ameren's large-load numbers. Ameren says the increase was "not motivated by" data center demand. Christ wants every figure tested and confirmation on the record that no large-load costs land on residential or small-business customers.

Russ Kingsland, of Sappington, said the June 2025 increase was hard enough. "We set the thermostat where we always set it and the bill still went up $15 a month. Now they want $13 more on top of that. I appreciate that Brad didn't just complain about it — he filed something. That's more than I've seen anybody else do."

No Data Center Here — and Rules Before There Ever Is One

There is no data center proposed anywhere in the 96th District, and Christ has not asked for one. Call Newspapers reported this summer that none are planned in South County.

But St. Louis County is writing zoning rules for large data centers. At the county's Aug. 11 hearing, 15 of 18 speakers said the draft rules did not go far enough. St. Charles banned data centers in May, and St. Charles County passed a six-month moratorium in July.

"There's no data center in our district, and I haven't asked for one," Christ said. "If one ever comes, the law I voted for says it pays its share, not you. And until St. Louis County has real rules for where these things go, I support a pause."

The Missouri Data Center Community Accountability Act

Christ intends to carry that position into the 2027 session, supporting a framework called the Missouri Data Center Community Accountability Act, built on six principles:

- **Ratepayer protection.** Large data centers bear the full cost of the generation, transmission and substations needed to serve them.
- **Reliable, affordable electricity first.** Confirm sufficient generation exists before approving facilities that use hundreds of megawatts.
- **Private property rights.** No eminent domain for projects built primarily to benefit a private corporation.
- **Local control.** Cities and counties decide whether large data centers belong in their communities.
- **Water safeguards.** Full disclosure and review of water use before any project is approved.
- **Full transparency.** Every tax incentive, utility agreement and special arrangement is publicly disclosed.

"I support economic development — but I do not support asking Missouri families, farmers, and small businesses to subsidize the power needs of some of the wealthiest corporations in the world," Christ said. "Until Big Tech pays its own way, we should hit the pause button on new large-scale data center development."

How to Weigh In

The Commission accepts public comments at efis.psc.mo.gov/PublicComment/EmailForm, referencing File No. ER-2026-0291. Nearly 200 were on file as of Sept. 1.

"Say who you are, where you live, and what a third increase in five years means for your household," Christ said. "Mine is already in."

PROPERTY TAXES

From Page 12

asks the governor to include:

- **Burden of proof on the assessor, not the homeowner.** When a computer-generated valuation is challenged, the assessor must prove the number is right.
- **No more drive-by tax increases.** Before any assessment can jump more than 15 percent, the assessor must physically inspect the property.
- **A cap on car and truck taxes.** For vehicles valued under $50,000, the personal property assessment cannot exceed the prior year's.
- **Tax-increase elections in November.** End the low-turnout April and August elections used to pass levies.
- **The real cost on the ballot.** Every property tax measure must state its cost per $100,000 of home value.
- **No taxpayer-funded campaigns for tax hikes.** Close the loophole that lets local governments spend public money promoting their own increases.

"None of this is radical. Most of it passed one or both chambers already," Christ said. "A short, focused session gets it across the finish line."

Bob Houchin , of Sappinton, said the assessment process worries him the most. "Our assessment went up 35 percent and nobody ever came to look at the house. If the county is going to raise my taxes that much, somebody ought to have to walk up the driveway first. Brad's the only one I've heard say that out loud."

"Our seniors built these communities, and thankfully, St. Louis County just did the right thing," Christ said. "Now I want the governor to give the rest of the state the same chance — and I want to hear from every senior in this district before we go."

Seniors can complete the survey online at **www.bradchristformo.com.**



ERIN CHRIST INTERVIEW

From Page 12

sleep much. Brad handled it the way he handles everything — he called the right people, he did what law enforcement told him to do, and he did not let the kids see him rattled. I am grateful to the St. Louis County Police, Sunset Hills Police and the Capitol Police for how seriously they took it.

Reporter: Did you ever ask him to walk away from the job?

Erin: I thought about it. I will be honest about that. But then I watched him put out that statement — that threats are not "passion," they are cowardly — and go right back to work. And I thought, if we quit because somebody yelled into a phone, then that person decides who represents the 96th District, not the voters. I was not willing to let that happen, and neither was he. We did add a few things at home that I am not going to describe. And we kept going.

Reporter: What do you want people in the district to know before they vote?

Erin: That when he says he is going to look at something line by line, he means it, because he does that with our grocery receipts too. That when someone in Crestwood or Fenton calls his office about a car title or a property tax bill, it gets handled, because I have heard him on the phone with the Department of Revenue from our kitchen at eight in the morning. And that he does not think being a Republican means he cannot work with a Democrat who has a good idea. He is not doing this for a title. He is doing it because he thinks Missouri can be run better, and because he wants our kids to grow up in a place where that is still true.

Reporter: Anything else?

Erin: Just that I would like him home on Thursdays a little earlier. [Laughs.] But no. We are proud of him. All five of us.

Brad Christ has served the 96th District in the Missouri House since 2023. He and Erin live in Sunset Hills with their four children. And if you are looking for a reason to trust him with another term, it is worth remembering that his best endorsement does not come from any organization. It comes from the person who knows him best.

FIGHTING CRIME

From Page 11

"Our officers show up every day knowing that some people don't have their backs. It means a great deal to know that Brad Christ is one of the people who does — consistently, not just in election years."— Rich Banahan, Retired Police Officer

It is a record organized around one principle: real accountability for violent offenders — whatever their age — and real answers for victims and their families.

$1.5 BOOKKEEPING MISTAKE

From Page 6

ing to the district's year-end reports filed with DESE, total state revenue to Lindbergh rose from $10.44 million in 2021-22 to $19.47 million in 2025-26, an 86.5 percent increase, with almost all of the gain coming after Christ took office. The local effort correction accounts for about $1.5 million a year; most of the rest came from the higher per-student target the legislature approved in the same budgets.

Together, those changes more than doubled Lindbergh's basic formula aid, from $6.45 million in 2023-24 to $13.58 million in 2025-26, according to the district's year-end reports. Over the first three years, the bookkeeping fix alone is worth about $4.5 million to the district.

Lindbergh Schools — Foundation Formula Calculation, Before and After the SB 727 Fix

Payment year	Target per student	Local effort	Formula aid (old rule)	Formula aid (new rule)	Gain from fix
2024	$6,962	$37,925,756	$9,451,325	$9,451,325	—
2025	$7,355	$36,407,808	$12,128,506	$13,646,454	$1,517,948
2026	$7,774	$36,434,513	$14,979,230	$16,470,473	$1,491,244
2027	$7,774	$36,453,108	$14,979,230	$16,451,878	$1,472,648

Source: DESE Basic Formula Projection Tool (September 2026 edition), Local Effort and Basic Formula Payment worksheets; SB 727 fiscal note. Target per student includes Lindbergh's cost-of-living modifier. Formula aid for 2025–2027 uses Lindbergh's 2024 weighted attendance of 6,805.6 and includes the Classroom Trust Fund share.

SB 727 passed the House on April 18, 2024, by a vote of 82 to 69. Eighty-two is the minimum a bill needs to pass. Christ voted yes.

"I tell people the formula is a math problem, and Lindbergh was getting the wrong answer," Christ said. "Fixing it didn't cost the state much and it didn't raise anybody's taxes. It just gave Lindbergh what the formula always should have."

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

From Page 9

Dr. George Hruza, a Dermatologist who has practiced in south St. Louis County for 25 years, said the burden falls hardest on patients. "I lost count of the hours my staff and I spent on the phone arguing to get a patient the treatment I had already determined they needed. A reviewer who has never met that patient should not be able to say no while their condition gets worse. HB 3010 restores common sense to a system that has gotten badly out of balance. I applaud Brad for standing up to the insurance companies on this."

The Physician Burden — and the Patient Cost

Physicians say managing prior authorization consumes nearly two full business days a week in physician and staff time, according to the AMA, and 79 percent report that patients have abandoned recommended treatments because the process was too burdensome.

See PRIOR AUTHORIZATION/Page 16





BIPARTISANSHIP

From Page 2

undo the 1997 mandate. Beck, who represents Affton, opposed the bill and it did not pass.

What could have hardened into a permanent standoff between two lawmakers from opposite parties instead became a negotiation. Christ and Beck used their positions to push Crestwood and Affton leaders to the table, giving local officials room to work out a deal that protected Affton's firefighters and budget while easing the strain on Crestwood taxpayers.

"This new agreement not only strengthens our partnership but also reflects a smart, efficient use of taxpayer dollars," Shipley said. **"Crestwood forecasts savings of at least $1.1 million in our Fire Department budget over the next six years, while maintaining the same strong level of emergency services to our residents from both organizations."**

Throughout the years of litigation, firefighters and paramedics from both departments kept working together on the ground. The dispute was always administrative and political, never operational. The new agreement puts the paperwork in line with what first responders had already been doing.

"I'm proud of the work accomplished, and it is very satisfying to find a solution to something that has been going on for a long time," Waser said. "This agreement allows everyone to focus on delivering top-tier public safety to all residents in our district."

For families in the annexed area and across Crestwood, the result is continuity: the same trucks, the same crews and the same response times, with a legal framework built to last through 2031 and a city budget that no longer carries an open-ended bill.

CELLPHONE BAN

From Page 10

Christ, who is seeking re-election in November, said he intends to keep listening to teachers and families as the law matures. "Sometimes the best thing Jefferson City can do is give local schools a clear rule and then get out of the way," he said.

Lindbergh Schools serves roughly 7,000 students in Sunset Hills, Crestwood, Sappington and surrounding parts of south St. Louis County.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

From Page 15

"This wasn't a Republican bill or a Democratic bill," Christ said. "A Republican from Springfield sponsored it, a Democrat co-sponsored it, a Democratic nurse asked for a yes vote on the floor, and our own St. Louis County physician, Dr. George Hruza, signed on. That's why it passed 143 to 1.

The only people who opposed it were the insurance companies, and they ran out the clock in the Senate. I'm going to keep pushing until this is law, because medical decisions should be made by medical professionals — not insurance company algorithms."

The bill does not eliminate prior authorization; it sets reasonable rules to keep the process from being weaponized against patients. Christ has pledged to support it again when the General Assembly returns in January.

THIS SPECIAL SECTION IS A POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT PAID FOR BY BRAD CHRIST FOR MISSOURI, DAVE SINCLAIR, TREASURER. THESE PAGES CHRONICLE THE POSITIVE MESSAGE OF THE CHRIST CAMPAIGN. IN THIS ERA OF DIRTY POLITICS, BRAD CHRIST HAS STUCK TO THE HIGH ROAD AND HE IS RUNNING HIS RACE STRESSING THE POSITIVES OF LISTENING, SERVING AND LEADING. BRAD CHRIST IS THE TYPE OF PERSON SOUTH COUNTY NEEDS IN THE MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES