



ST. JOSEPH AREA



CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

2009

LEGISLATIVE  
ISSUES

St. Joseph, Mo.

Dear Chamber Member:

The St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to provide this document, which outlines the priority legislative issues for 2009. The issues were identified by the Chamber's Government Relations Committee and the position statements were approved by the Board of Directors.

Our hope is that you will find the brochure a resource on legislative issues during the course of the year. The issues are divided between federal, state, and local government. Background information is provided on each issue and a position is noted. In addition, you will find information on federal, state, and local government officials for easy reference.

We encourage you, as a Chamber member, to be active in legislative matters of interest to you and your business. We hope this brochure will assist you in this effort.

Sincerely,



St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

*The Government Relations Division of the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce works to foster good relations with the various levels of government and to represent the business community in addressing legislative issues. Several programs and events derive from this division:*

### St. Joe Rising

St. Joe Rising is designed to bring current legislative issues to the membership. Held on the fourth Friday of January, April, June and September from 7:30-8:30 a.m., the coffee features breakfast, followed by the program and a question/answer period.

### Great Northwest Day at the Capitol

The Chamber participates and helps to coordinate Great Northwest Day at the Capitol. The event exists as a cooperative effort by Northwest Missouri communities to unify and enhance our region's image in Jefferson City and to pursue issues and legislation beneficial to the "Great Northwest."

### Washington D.C. Fly-In

A delegation of local business and community leaders annually visit the nation's capitol as part of the Washington D.C. Fly-In. While in Washington D.C., the delegation meets with members of Congress, U.S. senators, legislative staff and U.S. Chamber officials.

### Public Service Candidate School

Held in the fall prior to a local election, Public Service Candidate School provides an opportunity for participants to be introduced to, and gain a working knowledge of, the local political process.

### Legislative Updates

Receive ongoing updates of action being taken during the legislative session. The e-mailed updates focus on business issues and provide information on community issues of interest to St. Joseph.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Federal Issues ..... | Page 3 |
| State Issues .....   | Page 5 |
| Local Issues .....   | Page 8 |

### GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

|                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| National Offices .....      | Page 5  |
| State Offices .....         | Page 7  |
| School District .....       | Page 8  |
| County Officials .....      | Page 9  |
| City Officials .....        | Page 10 |
| Web Sites of Interest ..... | Page 11 |

For more information regarding the Chamber's Government Relations programs:

**Ted Allison, CED, President & CEO**  
**St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce**

**3003 Frederick Avenue**

**St. Joseph, MO 64506-5104**

**Phone: 816-232-4461 Fax: 816-364-4873**

**Email: [allison@saintjoseph.com](mailto:allison@saintjoseph.com)**

# FEDERAL ISSUES

## **Federal Funding**

Background: A local partnership has been created that directs federal lobbying activities on behalf of the St. Joseph community. The effort focuses on bringing federal dollars to the community to support local projects. Some of the projects for which federal funding is currently being pursued includes renovation of the MWSU Science and Math Building, continued funding for the Science and Technology Incubator at MWSU, continued funding for the Institute for Industrial & Applied Life Sciences, funding to assist the City's effort to comply with the federal "Clean Water" mandates and funding to match CIP for numerous local infrastructure projects.

Position: The Chamber endorses the federal legislative agenda and will continue to be involved in the community's federal lobbying activities.

## **Worker's right to a secret ballot**

Background: Organized labor is proposing the "Employee Free Choice Act" (also known as "Card Check"), which would eliminate the use of secret balloting in employee's elections authorizing the adoption of a labor union. This would result in union organizers being allowed to confront employees in the presence of other fellow workers to ask for their signature on a voting card, without the use of a secret voting ballot in a private booth.

Position: The Chamber believes the use of secret ballots in all elections helps to protect individuals' right to privacy and strongly opposes any effort to eliminate the use of secret balloting in the process of organizing a labor union in the workplace.

## **Funding for combined sewer project**

Background: The 1972 Clean Water Act contains provisions that require cities with combined sewer systems to meet or exceed state water quality standards for all discharges from their combined sewer systems into the waters of the state or alternatively to reduce the frequency of those overflows to no more than four times per year. The City of St. Joseph prepared a Long Term Control Plan that estimates the cost of improvements at the treatment plant and collection/conveyance system to be \$450 million to reduce overflows to four times annually. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) general goal is for a city to complete this work in 15-20 years, however, the City of St. Joseph cannot afford to do so in such a short time frame and still keep sewer user fees below an equivalent of 2 percent of median household income, an amount to avoid exceeding, according to EPA guidance documents.

Position: The Chamber supports the City of St. Joseph's pursuits for financial assistance to help defray the cost of the federally-mandated improvements for the combined sewer system changes.

## **Tax Reduction and Regulatory Reform**

Background: Implementation of permanent tax cuts, the elimination of the death tax, repeal of the personal and corporate alternative minimum tax and general tax code reform to simplify compliance with Internal Revenue code are all issues which have major impacts on businesses.

Position: The Chamber supports tax reduction and regulatory reform as related to businesses of all sizes.

## **Agriculture/Life Sciences Policy**

Background: Agriculture, agribusiness, animal health and nutrition and related life sciences are major economic drivers in our local economy. National policies should encourage growth in these important industries.

Position: The Chamber supports the branding of St. Joseph as the home of the Animal Health Corridor and supports expanding all markets to our animal health and nutrition products. The Chamber also supports efforts to expand our agricultural, agribusiness and biotechnology markets in a global economy.

## **Non-Profit Tax Status**

Background: Efforts by some tax groups are underway to erode the tax-exempt status of non-profit organizations. Proponents of this movement suggest non-profits unfairly compete with those businesses that pay taxes. Non-profits play an important role in this country, supporting a variety of national, state and local initiatives. Removing tax-exempt status could put many non-profits in jeopardy.

Position: The Chamber believes in the mission of non-profits in supporting their communities and takes a position against any legislation or regulatory action that would jeopardize the tax-exempt status of non-profit organizations.

## **Missouri River Navigation**

Background: The Missouri River has been used for transportation of commerce for hundreds of years. Over the last decade there have been efforts by northern states to restrict water release from upstream dams, resulting in commercial navigation being somewhat unpredictable and thus, an unreliable mode of transportation. This has meant communities on the river, like St. Joseph, have had to restrict use of their ports, which has diminished economic development efforts.

Position: The Chamber will continue to call on members of Congress and the Corps of Engineers to address this issue and promote reliable river flows to support navigation.

## **Workplace Regulations**

*Family and Medical Leave Act:* The Chamber opposes efforts to expand FMLA to employers with fewer than 50 employees and supports easing compliance with current regulations.

*Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA):* The Chamber supports legislation which would make OSHA more responsive to small businesses by providing employers with an incentive to use independent safety consultants, protecting safety inspections audit reports, and arming small businesses with better tools to fight against unwarranted OSHA prosecution.

## **Immigration Reform**

*Comprehensive Immigration Reform:* The Chamber supports efforts to create legalized immigration with a central federal database system to validate legitimacy which would reduce the burden on employers to document legalized workers. Employers should also not be penalized for the criminal actions of employees who falsify documents in order to gain employment.

## **Education**

*Background:* The Chamber believes there is a direct correlation between public investment in education/workforce development, and the long-term vitality of the regional economy. Furthermore, it also believes the most efficient and effective methodology for addressing the educational requirements and issues of local employers should be through collaboration between the local school board, its administrative officers, the Chamber of Commerce, and employers in the community.

“No Child Left Behind,” a relatively new federal policy, was adopted to require continual improvements in public education. Each state has some latitude in the process for evaluating progress at the local level, which may restrict the funding for local school districts. As in many other states, the evaluation processes imposed on local school districts in Missouri do not adequately recognize progress being made in public education and have caused many, including St. Joseph, to be unfairly penalized for performance measures that are beyond their control.

*Position:* The Chamber supports the effort to leverage the influence of state and local chambers and member companies in order to shape critical state and federal education and workforce policies, public debate, proven practices, and public-private partnerships in an effort to improve the quality and retention of skilled workers in the regional labor pool. Federal and state funding should be increased in all areas of public common education, higher education, and technical training. The Chamber also opposes unfunded federal and state mandates imposed on local school districts, unfair performance standards and evaluation processes that restrict federal and state funding, and any initiatives that diminish the oversight and governance role of local elected school boards.

## **Health Care Reform**

*Background:* Small businesses continue to be disadvantaged in accessing affordable healthcare insurance for their employees. Restrictions on pooling coverage and premium costs which are impacted by excessive medical liability and the continued growth of indigent care discourages small businesses from providing medical coverage for themselves and their employees.

*Position:* The Chamber supports legislation that will provide small businesses and individuals with affordable health care coverage options, reduce the increasing burden of indigent care, limit cost increases, expand the availability of Health Savings Accounts (HSAs), provide tax credits and/or allowable deductions for insurance premiums, and exemptions from state-mandated restrictions on establishment of risk pool programs.

## **Eminent Domain**

*Background:* Despite action by the U.S. Supreme Court which affirmed the use of eminent domain for economic development projects, the potential still exists for federal legislative action which would prohibit the use of federal funds for economic development projects that involve the exercise of eminent domain. This would jeopardize local economic development projects that provide for redevelopment of blighted areas, create jobs and stimulate the local economy.

*Position:* The Chamber believes there are existing safeguards to prevent the abuse of eminent domain powers by local government. As such, the Chamber opposes any legislation that would constrain the use of eminent domain for local economic development projects or diminish the authority and oversight roles of local elected officials.

## **OSHA Reform**

*Background:* Over the years, legislation has been introduced that would provide reform to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. These reforms include allowing employers to recover reasonable attorney fees and court costs when they prevail, allow more time for small businesses to respond to citations and structural changes to the Commission, and encourage an expedited review process for pending cases.

*Position:* The Chamber supports this legislation because it better protects the rights of business from unwarranted OSHA prosecution. More emphasis should also be given to require cooperation and accountability of employees in the workplace.

## President

### **Barack Obama (D)**

The White House  
Washington, DC 20500  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov>

## Vice President

### **Joseph Biden (D)**

Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20500  
[http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/vice\\_president\\_biden](http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/vice_president_biden)

## United States Senate

### U.S. Senator

#### **The Honorable Christopher “Kit” Bond (R-MO)**

Russell Senate Office Building  
Room 274  
Washington, DC 20510  
<http://bond.senate.gov>

202-224-5721  
202-224-8149 (fax)  
[kit\\_bond@bond.senate.gov](mailto:kit_bond@bond.senate.gov)

### U.S. Senator

#### **The Honorable Claire McCaskill (D-MO)**

Hart Senate Office Building  
Room 717  
Washington, DC 20510  
<http://mccaskill.senate.gov>

202-224-6154  
202-228-1518 (fax)  
[mccaskill.senate.gov/contact/](http://mccaskill.senate.gov/contact/)

## United States Congress

### 6th District Representative

#### **The Honorable Sam Graves (R-MO)**

United States House of Representatives  
1415 Longworth  
Washington, DC 20510  
or:  
201 South Eighth Street, Room 330  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
<http://www.house.gov/graves/>

202-225-7014  
202-225-8221 (fax)  
816-233-9818  
816-233-9849 (fax)  
[sam.graves@mail.house.gov](mailto:sam.graves@mail.house.gov)

## Transportation

Background : The state’s highway system is in need of expansion and improvement in order to serve the transportation needs of the state. Efforts to provide additional revenues for maintenance and new roads have had limited success. The lack of adequate funding impacts current projects, which hinders continued growth of the local economy.

Position: Efforts should continue by the Legislature to increase funding for the construction of new roads and improvements to existing roads. The Chamber supports the redevelopment of the Interstate 29/Highway 169 interchange, construction of the Alabama Street bridge overpass, improvements to the Riverside and Highway 36 interchange and the extension of Riverside Road north of Frederick Avenue.

## Education and Workforce Development

Background: As the global economy increases the demand for an educated workforce, we must invest in strategies that improve the potential for educational attainment and retention of our students. Early childhood learning, student awareness of promising career opportunities, continued life-long learning and skill development, enhanced work ethics, and improved attainment in science and math curriculum are all essential long-term strategies for meeting the workforce needs of the diverse base of employers in the St. Joseph area.

The Chamber believes there is a direct correlation between public investment in education and the long-term vitality of the regional economy. Furthermore, it also believes the most efficient and effective methodology for addressing the educational requirements and issues of local employers should be the primary responsibility and authority of the local elected school board.

Position: The Chamber supports workforce development efforts and increased public investment to partner the State of Missouri with local educational institutions and other potential support groups to implement a wide range of programs that will improve the quality and retention of skilled workers in the regional labor pool. State funding should be increased in all areas of public common education, higher education, and technical training. The Chamber supports efforts to improve quality and access to early childhood education, a quality rating system for childcare providers, and increasing the income guidelines for childcare subsidies will help us create an educated workforce for the future. The Chamber also opposes unfunded federal and state mandates imposed on local school districts, unfair performance standards and evaluation processes that restrict federal and state funding, and any initiatives that diminish the oversight and governance role of local elected school boards.

# STATE ISSUES

## **Economic Development**

**Background:** Enhancing the economic vitality of the community is the highest priority of the Chamber. Local communities in Missouri are at a competitive disadvantage compared to other areas of the country in retaining existing jobs and attracting new employers and investment. In addition, the state has not adequately funded training grants to business. This has had a negative impact on existing employers with training needs and has diminished the ability to offer training incentives to potential new employers.

**Position:** The Chamber urges the state legislature to adopt meaningful legislation that would provide for competitive economic development incentives to support local communities in their efforts to retain jobs and investment. Further, the Chamber supports additional funding of state training grant programs to support economic development efforts and the removal of authorization limits for accessing the state's "Quality Jobs Program." Lastly, the Chamber supports the prudent use of economic development tools, including Tax Increment Financing (TIF), and we support continued participation and input from all affected taxing authorities in decisions regarding tax abatement and reallocation of funds.

## **Health Care**

**Background:** Small business continues to be disadvantaged in accessing affordable healthcare and healthcare insurance. Restrictions on pooling coverage and premium costs have a negative impact on the ability of small business to provide medical coverage for themselves and their employees.

**Position:** The Chamber supports tax incentives to encourage individual workers to secure family health insurance and to companies who provide health insurance options for their employees. The Chamber also supports reform of the health care system to make health care available and affordable for employers and their employees, thus reducing the number of uninsured Missouri citizens. Lastly, the Chamber supports the Insure Missouri Health Insurance Plan.

## **Technology Infrastructure**

**Background:** The availability of broadband services is an important decision factor for businesses choosing to locate or expand in the St. Joseph area. High-speed telecommunications, internet services, and video are essential to business productivity and operations.

**Position:** The Chamber supports minimal regulations of voice, video, high-speed internet and data services that enhance technology infrastructure and improve consumer access. Further, the ability for municipalities to generate fees from the franchising of technology providers and the ability to control their rights-of-way should be protected.

## **Missouri Western State University Funding**

**Background:** MWSU has a statewide mission in applied research and applied learning. The development of the Bond Science and Technology Incubator is facilitating commercialization of new and improved products, production processes, and the development of new businesses. Construction of the Incubator was completed in spring 2008; however, additional funding is required to complete the interior of the facility and address specific needs of each of its small business clients.

The Incubator is also providing training of employees for firms both in St. Joseph and throughout the Northwest Missouri region. In conjunction with MWSU's professional Masters of Applied Science, the Bond Science and Technology Incubator is providing process research to assist entrepreneurs and support early stage business development, thereby stimulating regional economic growth.

**Position:** The Chamber supports additional funding to continue the development of the Bond Science and Technology Incubator.

## **Agricultural/Life Sciences Funding**

**Background:** Agriculture, Agribusiness, Animal Health and Nutrition and related Life Sciences are major economic drivers in our local economy and offers the best opportunity for growth of high-tech jobs in the state. State policies should encourage growth in these important industries.

**Position:** : The Chamber supports the branding of St. Joseph as the home of the Animal Health Corridor and supports expanding all markets to our animal health and nutrition products. The Chamber also supports efforts to expand our agricultural, agribusiness and biotechnology markets in a global economy.

## **Energy**

**Background:** Energy is a critical resource for the region and is at the center of discussions at the federal and state levels, including the desire to minimize environmental impacts, increase capacity for growing demand, and finding new ways to help customers better manage their energy consumption. A balanced approach to a long-term energy policy will enable St. Joseph to continue to provide clean, reliable and affordable energy into the future.

**Position:** The Chamber supports policies to promote a long-term energy plan that balances environmental and cost benefits, while ensuring reliable and ample power for the region and promoting investment in energy efficiency measures.

# STATE OFFICES

## *Governor of Missouri*

### **The Honorable Jay Nixon (D)**

State Capitol Building, Room 216  
201 West Capitol Avenue; PO Box 720  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
<http://governor.mo.gov>  
[constit@mail.gov.state.mo.us](mailto:constit@mail.gov.state.mo.us)

573-751-3222  
573-751-1495 (fax)

## *Lieutenant Governor*

### **The Honorable Peter Kinder (R)**

State Capitol Building, Room 224  
201 West Capitol Avenue  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
<http://www.ltgov.mo.gov>  
[ltgovinfo@mail.ltgov.state.mo.us](mailto:ltgovinfo@mail.ltgov.state.mo.us)

573-751-4727  
573-751-9422 (fax)

## **State Senators**

### *12th District*

#### **The Honorable Brad Lager (R)**

15989 Hwy 71  
Savannah, MO 64485

or:

State Capitol Building, Room 429  
201 West Capitol Avenue  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
[blager@senate.state.mo.us](mailto:blager@senate.state.mo.us)

573-751-1415  
573-751-8342 (fax)

### *34th District*

#### **The Honorable Charles W. Shields (R)**

47 S.E. Erin Ct.  
St. Joseph, MO 64507  
[cshields@ponyexpress.net](mailto:cshields@ponyexpress.net)

or:

State Capitol Building, Room 326  
201 West Capitol Avenue  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
[charlie\\_shields@senate.state.mo.us](mailto:charlie_shields@senate.state.mo.us)

816-271-7216 (w)  
816-233-2465 (h)  
816-233-9168 (fax)

573-751-9476  
573-526-4765 (fax)

## **State Representatives**

### *4th District*

#### **The Honorable Mike Thomson (R)**

P.O. Box 44  
Maryville, MO 64468

or:

State Capitol Building, Room 114B  
201 West Capitol Avenue  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
[Mike.Thomson@house.mo.gov](mailto:Mike.Thomson@house.mo.gov)

660-582-4494

573-751-9465

### *5th District*

#### **The Honorable Jim Guest (R)**

210 North 2nd Street; PO Box 412  
King City, MO 64463

or:

State Capitol Building, Room 400 CC  
201 West Capitol Avenue  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
[Jim.Guest@house.mo.gov](mailto:Jim.Guest@house.mo.gov)

660-535-4820  
660-535-4402 (fax)

573-751-0246  
573-526-7740 (fax)

### *27th District*

#### **The Honorable Edward Wildberger (D)**

2414 Dewey St.  
St. Joseph, MO 64505  
[ed@magiccablepc.com](mailto:ed@magiccablepc.com)

or:

State Capitol Building, Room 109 B  
201 West Capitol Avenue  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
[Ed.Wildberger@house.mo.gov](mailto:Ed.Wildberger@house.mo.gov)

816-364-1852  
816-671-1349 (fax)

573-751-9755  
573-526-1965 (fax)

### *28th District*

#### **The Honorable Robert Schaaf (R)**

516 Pinewood  
St. Joseph, MO 64507  
[rob@schaaf.com](mailto:rob@schaaf.com)

or:

State Capitol Building, Room 303 A  
201 West Capitol Avenue  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
[Rob.Schaaf@house.mo.gov](mailto:Rob.Schaaf@house.mo.gov)

816-279-7917  
816-233-6117 (fax)

573-751-2183  
573-526-9851 (fax)

### *29th District*

#### **The Honorable Martin Rucker (D)**

2703 Meadow Ridge  
St. Joseph, MO 64504  
[Martin.Rucker@sjsd.k12.mo.us](mailto:Martin.Rucker@sjsd.k12.mo.us)

or:

State Capitol Building, Room 105 C  
201 West Capitol Avenue  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
[Martin.Rucker@house.mo.gov](mailto:Martin.Rucker@house.mo.gov)

816-238-7692

573-751-9460

# LOCAL ISSUES

## **Funding for St. Joseph School District**

Background: The St. Joseph School District has two issues on the April 7 ballot. The first is a 63-cent operating levy which is set to expire this year. The funds from the levy have been used to purchase technology improvements, textbooks and security enhancements. It also was used to continue offering small class sizes and helped provide student activity and athletic opportunities at a minimal cost. Second is a 22-cent bond issue that would generate about \$45 million for new facilities.

Position: The Chamber supports the renewal of the existing operating levy for the St. Joseph School District and the authorization of new bonds for the construction of two new schools.

## **Community Growth**

Background: The appropriate and orderly development of the community enhances St. Joseph as a place to live and do business. Development is largely controlled by land use policies adopted by the city in the form of the Zoning Code. These policies must provide for adequate enforcement, but must also reflect reasonableness and community interest. Further, the city and county should consider planning issues associated with future annexation in order to sustain future growth and development, as well as make every effort to expedite the approval process for zoning and/or permitting applicants.

Position: The Chamber supports land use policies that reflect an understanding of economic development issues and provide a reasonable approach to development based on broad-based community input. Further, the Chamber encourages joint planning and land use discussion by the city and county that will address future growth issues, which could include annexation. The Chamber would advocate the pursuit of a voluntary annexation policy that would encourage developers and residents in outlying areas to participate, which would facilitate future community growth.

## **Redevelopment Initiatives**

Background: Over the last several years, three redevelopment initiatives have been undertaken in St. Joseph. This includes redevelopment of the downtown, riverfront, and stockyards areas. These redevelopment activities will be an important element of the community's future economic growth and vitality.

Position: The Chamber supports these important redevelopment initiatives by the city. Consideration should be given to development incentives, financing mechanisms, and public investment as a way to stimulate private development in these redevelopment areas.

## **Economic Development Incentives**

Background: The Chamber works in partnership with the city and county to attract new investment and create new jobs in the area. The ability to provide local incentives is critical to this effort.

Position: The Chamber realizes the need to build the community's tax base. To facilitate this, the Chamber encourages the responsible use of incentives by the city and county to support business attraction and retention efforts.

## **Community Enhancement**

Background: The appearance of a community is important to economic development efforts. As businesses consider the community, they are interested in how the community looks from a "quality of life" point of view. St. Joseph has for many years struggled with issues associated with the condition of buildings and housing, as well as the cleanliness of the community.

Position: The Chamber continues to support the city's cleanup initiative and encourages consideration of a Housing Occupancy Inspection Program as a way of enhancing both residential and commercial areas of the community.

## **Infrastructure Funding**

Background: Over the past decade, there has been much accomplished in the community through the city's Capital Improvements Program (CIP), and the funding provided through the voter-approved CIP sales tax. Even with this progress, there is still much more to be done to support growth of the community. More financial resources will be required in the future, if the city is to make real progress in terms of growth and quality of life.

Position: The Chamber supports the continuation of the CIP sales tax, and advocates for additional funding using financial resources, such as increasing the sales tax for capital improvement projects and utilizing general-obligation bonds to finance public infrastructure projects.

# ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Superintendent*

**Dr. Melody Smith**

925 Felix  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

816-671-4000  
816-671-4470 (fax)

## **Board of Education**

*President*

**Diane Watson**

816-233-8672

*Vice President*

**Martin Rucker**

816-238-7692

**Leo Blakley**

816-279-4742

**Barbara Moore**

816-233-6522

**Sarah Siemens**

816-279-5439

**Dennis Snethen**

816-238-1615

**Sue Wagner**

816-364-3389

# BUCHANAN COUNTY OFFICIALS

## *Presiding Commissioner*

### **R.T. Turner**

Buchanan County Courthouse, 411 Jules  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

816-271-1503  
816-232-3284 (h)

## *Eastern District Commissioner*

### **Dan Hausman**

Buchanan County Courthouse, 411 Jules  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

816-271-1503

## *Western District Commissioner*

### **Ron Hook**

Buchanan County Courthouse, 411 Jules  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

816-271-1503  
816-238-8811 (h)

## *County Clerk*

### **Pat Conway**

Buchanan County Courthouse, 411 Jules  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

816-271-1412  
816-271-1413

### **Voting Information**

## *Prosecuting Attorney*

### **Dwight Scroggins**

302 N. 5<sup>th</sup>, Room 132  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

816-271-1480

## *Assessor*

### **Scot VanMeter**

Buchanan County Courthouse, 411 Jules  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

816-271-1469

## *Auditor*

### **Nancy Nash**

Buchanan County Courthouse, 411 Jules  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

816-271-1408

## *Sheriff*

### **Mike Strong**

501 Faraon  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

816-271-5555

## *Collector*

### **Peggy Campbell**

Buchanan County Courthouse, 411 Jules  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

816-271-1401

## *Public Administrator*

### **Bill McMurray**

Buchanan County Courthouse, 411 Jules  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

816-271-1442

## *Recorder of Deeds*

### **Karen Higginbotham**

Buchanan County Courthouse, 411 Jules  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

816-271-1437

## *Treasurer*

### **John Nash**

Buchanan County Courthouse, 411 Jules  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

816-271-1432

## *Circuit Clerk*

### **Mary (Salanky) Beattie**

Buchanan County Courthouse, 411 Jules  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

816-271-1462

## *Circuit Judge, Division 1*

### **Randall Jackson**

Buchanan County Courthouse, 411 Jules-302  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

816-271-1447

## *Circuit Judge, Division 2*

### **Weldon Judah**

Buchanan County Courthouse, 411 Jules-303  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

816-271-1441

## *Circuit Judge, Division 3*

### **Patrick Robb**

Buchanan County Courthouse, 411 Jules-311  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

816-271-1511

## *Circuit Judge, Division 4*

### **Dan Kellogg**

Buchanan County Courthouse, 411 Jules-332  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

816-271-1477

## *Associate Circuit Judge, Division 5*

### **Keith Marquart**

Buchanan County Courthouse, 411 Jules-322  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

816-271-1454

## *Associate Circuit Judge, Division 6*

### **Ronald Taylor**

Buchanan County Courthouse, 411 Jules-323  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

816-271-1448

# CITY OF ST. JOSEPH OFFICIALS

## Mayor & Council (2006-2010)

### *Mayor*

#### **The Honorable Ken Shearin**

City Hall, 11th & Frederick, Suite 309  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
mayor@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-271-4640  
816-341-4501 (c)  
816-271-4737 (fax)

### *Deputy Mayor*

#### **Mike Hirter**

2301 Cranberry Hill Lane  
St. Joseph, MO 64503  
mhirter@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-341-4502 (c)

### *At Large*

#### **Donna Jean Boyer**

5216 Mockingbird Lane  
St. Joseph, MO 64506  
djboyer@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-279-5259 (h)  
816-244-3913 (c)

### *At Large*

#### **Bill Falkner**

3905 N. 29th St.  
St. Joseph, MO 64506  
bfalkner@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-341-4504 (c)

### *District I*

#### **Roger Baker**

1616 NE County Line Rd.  
St. Joseph, MO 64505  
rbaker@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-341-4503 (c)

### *District II*

#### **Joyce Starr**

1604 S. 22nd  
St. Joseph, MO 64507  
jstarr@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-244-3906 (c)

### *District III*

#### **Mike Bozarth**

5207 Swift Ave.  
St. Joseph, MO 64504  
mbozarth@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-238-8265 (h)  
816-341-4505 (c)

### *District IV*

#### **Gary Roach**

3802 Patee St.  
St. Joseph, MO 64507  
groach@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-341-4506 (c)

### *District V*

#### **Barbara LaBass**

3901 Bucher Drive  
St. Joseph, MO 64503  
blabass@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-233-9838 (h)  
816-752-8363 (c)

## Administrative Staff

### *City Manager*

#### **Vince Capell**

City Hall, 11th & Frederick, Room 305  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
vcapell@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-271-4610  
816-271-4737 (fax)

### *City Clerk*

#### **Paula Heyde**

City Hall, 11th & Frederick, Room 303  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
clerk@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-271-4730  
816-271-4737 (fax)

### *City Attorney*

#### **Lisa Robertson**

City Hall, 11th & Frederick, Room 307  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
lrobertson@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-271-4680  
816-271-4737 (fax)

### *Chief of Police*

#### **Chris Connally**

501 Faraon  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
cconnally@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-271-4701  
816-271-5376 (fax)

### *Fire Chief*

#### **Mike Dalsing**

401 South 7th  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
mdalsing@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-271-4603  
816-271-4612 (fax)

### *Director of Planning & Community Development*

#### **Clint Thompson**

City Hall, 11th & Frederick, Room 107  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
cthompson@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-271-4827  
816-271-4752 (fax)

### *Health Director*

#### **Debra Bradley**

904 S. 10th St.  
St. Joseph, MO 64503  
dbradley@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-271-4636  
816-271-4764 (fax)

### *Property Maintenance Director*

### *Technology Services Director*

#### **Steve Hofferber**

City Hall, 11th & Frederick, Room 405  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
shofferber@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-271-4757  
816-271-4826 (fax)

*Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities Director*

**Bill McKinney**

1920 Grand; PO Box 5116  
St. Joseph, MO 64505  
parks\_rec@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-271-5500  
816-271-5513 (fax)

*Director of Public Works & Transportation*

**J. Bruce Woody**

City Hall, 11th & Frederick, Room 204  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
public\_works@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-271-4653  
816-271-4740 (fax)

*Rosecrans Memorial Airport Manager*

**Mike Hurst**

Rosecrans Memorial Airport  
100B NW Rosecrans Road  
St. Joseph, MO 64503  
mhurst@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-271-4886  
816-271-4887 (fax)

*Director of Financial Services*

**Carolyn Harrison**

City Hall, 11th & Frederick, Room 201  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
charrison@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-271-5526  
816-271-4697 (fax)

*Director of Human Resources*

**Diana Slater**

City Hall, 11th & Frederick, Room 403  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
dslater@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-271-4670  
816-271-5370 (fax)

*Director of Customer Assistance*

**Samuel T. Barber**

City Hall, 11th & Frederick, Room 107  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
sbarber@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-271-4757  
816-271-4676 (fax)

*Communications Manager*

**Mary Robertson**

City Hall, 11th & Frederick, Room 305  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
mrobertson@ci.st-joseph.mo.us

816-271-4610  
816-271-4737 (fax)

## WEB SITES OF INTEREST

|                                   |       |  |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--|
| <b>U.S. President</b>             | _____ | <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov">www.whitehouse.gov</a>         |
| <b>U.S. Senate</b>                | _____ | <a href="http://www.senate.gov">www.senate.gov</a>                 |
| <b>U.S House</b>                  | _____ | <a href="http://www.house.gov">www.house.gov</a>                   |
| <b>Missouri Government</b>        | _____ | <a href="http://www.mo.gov">www.mo.gov</a>                         |
| <b>Missouri Senate</b>            | _____ | <a href="http://www.senate.mo.gov">www.senate.mo.gov</a>           |
| <b>Missouri House</b>             | _____ | <a href="http://www.house.mo.gov">www.house.mo.gov</a>             |
| <b>Buchanan County</b>            | _____ | <a href="http://www.co.buchanan.mo.us">www.co.buchanan.mo.us</a>   |
| <b>City of St. Joseph</b>         | _____ | <a href="http://www.ci.st-joseph.mo.us">www.ci.st-joseph.mo.us</a> |
| <b>St. Joseph School District</b> | _____ | <a href="http://www.sjsd.k12.mo.us">www.sjsd.k12.mo.us</a>         |
| <b>Chamber of Commerce</b>        | _____ | <a href="http://www.saintjoseph.com">www.saintjoseph.com</a>       |

Legislative Issues Brochure  
partially sponsored by:

**TRAVELERS** 

**Greg McLeod (913) 402-4994**

[www.travelers.com](http://www.travelers.com)