



Missouri House of Representatives

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Representative Marty Murray Advances Key Investments for the 78th District in House Budget

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – State Representative Marty Murray proudly announces that the Missouri House of Representatives has passed its budget, advancing it to the Senate for further consideration.

Through strategic negotiations and steadfast advocacy, Rep. Murray has championed over \$2 million in targeted community investments that would directly benefit the 78th District and the broader St. Louis region.

"While this budget makes some progress, it still falls short of fully funding our public education system, leaving schools without the resources they need to support every student," Rep. Murray, D-St. Louis, said. "The altering of SAT funding undermines access to college readiness tools for low-income students, putting opportunity further out of reach for those who need it most."

Rep. Murray successfully negotiated \$500,000 for the non-profit organization Doorways, providing critical funding that will support housing and supportive services for individuals living with HIV/AIDS, stabilizing lives and reducing health disparities in vulnerable communities.

Additionally, Rep. Murray championed several key amendments through the House Budget Committee, including:

- **\$100,000 for Viking Advantage:** Supports first-generation and low-income students in their transition to college, increasing access to higher education and long-term economic mobility.
- **\$60,000 for the Ritenour Food Pantry:** Addresses urgent food insecurity needs for families in the Ritenour School District, ensuring students and community members have access to nutritious meals.
- **\$100,000 for a Statewide Doula Registry:** Expands access to certified doulas, promoting maternal health equity, particularly for Black and brown mothers who face higher rates of maternal mortality and negative birth outcomes.

- **\$250,000 for All Hands on Deck:** Supports a reentry initiative providing job training, mentorship, and wraparound services to returning citizens, reducing recidivism and strengthening public safety.
- **\$250,000 for LIV Sober Living and Recovery Services:** Provides essential support for individuals recovering from substance use, ensuring stable housing and community-based recovery programs to help maintain sobriety.
- **\$750,000 for Places for People:** Supports planning, design, and renovation of a behavioral health and substance use treatment clinic, expanding access to critical mental health care services in St. Louis.

All of these amendments passed out of the House, totaling \$2,010,000 in direct community investments that address systemic barriers in health, education, reentry, and recovery.

"As always, I'm proud to fight for our communities—but none of this work happens in a vacuum," Rep. Murray added. "I want to thank the Democratic Caucus members on the Budget Committee for standing shoulder to shoulder in this effort. This has been a true team effort, and I'm grateful for their partnership and commitment to people-first budgeting."

With the budget now in the Senate, the Senate Appropriations Committee is currently reviewing the House recommendations and may propose changes. Rep. Murray remains committed to advocating for these critical investments throughout the conference negotiations between the House and Senate, ensuring that these community-driven priorities are preserved and funded in the enacted state budget.

Representative Marty Joe Murray, a Democrat, proudly represents part of St. Louis City (District 78) in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was elected to his first two-year term in November 2024. For more information, please contact Rep. Murray at 573-751-2383 or by email at Marty.Murray@House.Mo.Gov.

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