

The Great Northwest Day at the Capital Steering Committee, along with countless others over the last 18 years have continued efforts to propose a slate of meaningful, regional issues to take to the state capital on behalf of all northwest Missouri. Although not all priorities have had direct impacts on the decisions made in Jefferson City, the delegation has raised and continues to maintain awareness of important issues within our state legislature and reminds the entire state that northwest Missouri is willing to work cooperatively to resolve issues important in our region.

Over the years, many of the priorities carried to Jefferson City by the northwest Missouri delegation have remained consistent from one year to the next, including priorities such as transportation, economic development, water/wastewater, and education. This document includes a comprehensive list of all GNW Day priorities since the first capital visit in 2003, followed by a list of impacts that may be attributed to the delegation's efforts.

A History of GNW Day Priorities: 2003-2021

2021- Virtual Event

Sustained Funding for COVID-19 Recovery and the Reopening of Regional and Community Assets

- Support for Public-Private Partnership and collaboration between entrepreneurs, local public entities, and private support organizations working on economic and community development
- Wayfair Online Sales Tax Reform
- Tailor resources to rebound and build a stronger culture of empowering local businesses throughout the region to expand

Increase Full Access to Mental Health and Primary Care

- Collaborate across the aisle to implement Medicaid expansion fairly throughout the state considering unique characteristics of rural and urban residents
- Ensure resources that help reduce opioid use and dependency

Increasing access to quality affordable primary care and treating mental health the same as any other area of health care can help:

- Prevent more serious – and costly - physical and mental health problems from developing.
- Reduce substance abuse and crime.
- Encourage and educate residents to make healthier life choices.
- Decrease deaths of despair; particularly those caused by overdose.
- Keep and attract more healthcare professionals in and to our communities who also play important leadership roles beyond patient care. National statistics tell us there are only 55 primary care physicians and 30 specialists per 100,000 rural residents compared to 79 and 263 respectively per 100,000 urban residents.
- Keep and attract more businesses in and to our region. Some of our largest employers have indicated that health care is an essential aspect of economic development, and they will not recruit or retain employees without it.

Support Innovation Within Rural Education: Early Childhood, K-12, Higher Education, and Community

- Ensure access to high-quality, affordable childcare and early childhood development programs in the interest of sustaining and growing our workforce

- Maintain core funding for higher education institutions so they can sustain academic programs as well as workforce development and community involvement
- Fully fund the education formula
- Encourage new and high-quality approaches for in-person and online learners in K-12
- Retain good teachers in our schools
- Ensure NWMO representation on state-level education-related boards, task forces and committees

Ensure End-of-the-Road Access to High-Speed Broadband

- Expand access to agriculture, businesses, and households – especially those with students and remote workers – beyond the fiber fringe
- Encourage innovative solution development and implementation in addition to expanded funding by lifting any regulatory roadblocks
- Support multi-sector collaborations to move solutions forward faster

2020

Ensure End-of-the-Road High-Speed Internet Through Broadband and Fiber

Being able to connect to reliable high-speed Internet is being able to communicate and cultivate innovation that can lead to a better educated, healthier, wealthier, and more positive culture.

Today, affordable and reliable highspeed Internet access is just as, if not more, important as postal service and electricity was to earlier generations. Rural, suburban, and urban residents and businesses all use the Internet for approximately the same amount of time connecting with the same types of devices each day. In rural areas the increasing use of the Internet-dependent devices in agriculture actually make the need for hi-speed even greater. Ensuring rural residents have the same dependable connections as those living within the city limits of communities is an essential utility for learning and working in the 21st century. This is an economic development, educational attainment, workforce development, healthcare, and overall quality of life priority for northwest Missouri.

Revive Relevant Infrastructure Throughout Northwest Missouri

Communities with excellent roads and sidewalks, safe bridges, and updated buildings and homes have the best opportunity to thrive. A place that looks great, is safe and welcoming, and is accessible via any mode of modern transportation is essential for fostering growth and opportunity.

Invest in Sustained Rural Economic and Community Development Strategies

Stronger communities are built over time through the success of many different factors coming together. When the investments of all sectors are aligned and collaborating, transformation takes place for the better. Progress related to economic and community development is often only measured by short-term projects and initiatives that serve as band-aids to complex systemic problems requiring root cause treatment and long-term care. We need help that boosts sustained and infinite game progress.

Support PreK-12/Higher Education, Innovation, and Career Development for All Ages

The future of our region depends on an educated and skilled workforce. Educational districts and institutions contributing to the development of Missouri's next generation of citizens, from preschool through multiple postsecondary options such as professional certificate and degree programs, cannot fulfill their mission without your support. We ask our legislators to continue investing in education, workforce development, and leadership development that can move our state forward.

Increase Rural Access to Affordable Primary and Mental Health Care

The current system in our country and Missouri, specifically, is complex and a tragic cycle for many rural residents. There are fewer insurers charging higher rates in rural areas.¹ Therefore, rural residents who are already earning lower wages for similar work that is better compensated in urban areas are forced to go without insurance or the money to pay out-of-pocket. The higher percentage of uninsured and underinsured along with decreased reimbursements has a negative effect on the ability of healthcare providers to keep their doors open. The challenges are much greater than debating whether to expand an insurance program. By working together and focusing on the tangible actions that can improve lives and reduce long-term costs we can help residents and providers.

2019

Caring for Our Youngest Citizens

New parent education, high-quality early childhood care and preschool ensures a healthy and ready to learn next generation of leaders.

By better caring for our youngest citizens, we are actually preventing a domino effect of poverty, poor health, and poor performance in school that ends up costing our state billions of dollars over time. We can help break this cycle at the root cause by ensuring appropriate childcare options are available, parents are educated on how to best care for their children from birth, and high-quality preschool education is available to all families in rural and urban communities. Great Northwest Day supports leadership development efforts for our citizens starting from day one because the world they will be navigating will be far more advanced and complex than any other generation of humans has ever experienced. Doing all we can to invest in their success is an investment in our own future quality of life.

Aligning to Educate and Advance Our Workforce

Workforce development and training is education that brings employers, educators, and future employees together to innovate and prosper in today's global economy.

The future of our region depends on an educated and skilled workforce. Educational districts and institutions contributing to the development of Missouri's next generation of citizens, from preschool through multiple postsecondary options such as professional certificate and degree programs, cannot fulfill their mission without your support. Great Northwest Day asks our legislators to continue investing in education, workforce development, mental health, and substance abuse treatment as they are all intertwined and impact how well our youth and adults can show up to advance their learning and move our state forward.

Rural High-Speed Broadband Access

Dependable and competitive connectivity for all will close the digital divide.

We live in a world that is omniconnected and dependent on technology communications. With over 40% of Missouri's population living in rural areas, it is essential to support the foundational infrastructure that can provide Universal Service (1) to all Missourians at an affordable price. We realize our rural area is considered a "high-cost" area by many Internet and mobile phone providers. However, some of our country's most innovative and successful minds have come from rural regions such as northwest Missouri. It is imperative to collaborate with the Federal Communications Commission [FCC] to help implement their aggressive key initiatives (2) designed to distribute resources fairly to all geographic corners of the state. FCC Chairman Ajit Pai stated, "Since my first day as Chairman of the FCC, my number one priority has been closing the digital divide and bringing the benefits of the Internet age to all Americans."

Safer Roads and Bridges

Transportation Infrastructure is the Artery System of Our Region at the Center of Our Continent.

Safe and reliable transportation infrastructure is essential to the health and wealth of our region. Great Northwest Day encourages lawmakers to invest in our rural region's roads and bridges – vital keys to the economic future of northwest Missouri. We oppose any plans that would require any further local city or county government fiscal and maintenance responsibility for State Lettered Routes or other state-supported infrastructure without the equal addition of local city or county revenue sources to cover those costs.

Wind Energy and Large Water Projects

Economic drivers and essential elements enable rural life to thrive.

Great Northwest Day encourages lawmakers to understand that the unique assets of rural Missouri play multiple roles in ensuring the sustainability of our communities. We ask you to match the support of our local landowners by keeping the tax revenue from our local natural assets invested within our local counties. We oppose any plans that allow tax dollars collected from wind projects now and in the future to be distributed to any area of the state other than where that wind project has a presence. We also ask you to support state funding to match federal dollars invested in large water projects that ensure our residents have enough water during periods of drought.

2018

Rural Broadband: We live in a world that is defined by interconnectivity. Northwest Missouri has always been defined by our communities and our people – and now is the time to connect those communities and people to the world through high speed internet. Great Northwest Days supports new, creative ways and technologies to connect our citizens to the global marketplace, like HB 1872 (Johnson) and SB 922 (Hegeman) that develop funds to make this a reality.

Transportation and Infrastructure: Great Northwest Days encourages lawmakers to make an investment in our region through our roads and water projects – projects that are vital to the economic future of the region. Great Northwest Days opposes plans that would return fiscal and maintenance responsibility of State Lettered Routes to local county governments.

911 Funding: Imagine that you have an emergency late one evening while driving through a rural area and when you call 911, they don't have a way to find where you are. This is a reality for many in our region, as funding for 911 centers that has long been tied to land line surcharges dries up. We ask state legislators to give control back to our local governments, giving them the opportunity to find new funding mechanisms to support these critical services.

Education: The future of our region depends on an educated and skilled workforce. Northwest Missouri has many incredible schools to develop the next generation of citizens, from preschool all the way through advanced degrees – but they cannot fulfill this mission for our region without your help. Great Northwest Days asks our legislators to continue investing in education for our region, knowing that our employers, our communities, and our future absolutely depend on it.

2017

Creation of a Rural Policy Office

The fabric of America is rural communities. It is here where generations of families worked together to plant, nurture and harvest crops on small family homesteads. Our nation grew as a result of this hard work. Now, as society changes, we cannot abandon our history. One way to address this is through the creation of an Office of Rural Policy in the Office of Administration.

Investment in Infrastructure

The definition of infrastructure has expanded over the past several decades to include critical facilities such as water and wastewater systems, levees, storm sewers, streets, public storm shelters, bridges, and broadband. Local governments have a challenge obtaining the funding necessary to properly address this expanded description as well as meet the needs of rural Missouri.

Investment in Broadband

Access to Broadband is essential to growing our economic communities. Access to the world marketplace allows our local companies to offer products and services at the international level, and allows our residents to remain connected to the world around them.

Investment in Education

An investment in the education of Missouri is an investment in economic development. Having an educated population who are ready to work with the right knowledge and skills will attract businesses to our state, and encourage them to stay and grow in our region.

2016

PK-12, Higher Education and Workforce Development Support

Adequate and sustained support and funding for public education is a keystone to our region's success and development. The core and capital needs of our schools, colleges and universities developing our workforce are at a critical point, and we encourage the legislature to address these needs.

Infrastructure and Funding

The definition of infrastructure has expanded to include critical facilities such as water and wastewater systems, levees, storm sewers, streets, public storm shelters and broadband. Local governments have a challenge obtaining necessary funding to properly address these necessities as well as meet the needs of rural Missouri.

Transportation Funding

We must work collectively to build a stronger, more viable economy in northwest Missouri, and a sound transportation network is essential to achieving this objective. Sufficient and reliable transportation is crucial to the success of our communities and the overall region. Residents and businesses depend on accessibility to adequately move traffic and transport goods. This is also a major factor in creating a stronger competitive base from which to grow and attract businesses to northwest Missouri.

Economic Development Support

An active and thriving local economy is essential for Northwest Missouri. Many organizations across the region are engaged in building a stronger, more viable and sustainable economy through a variety of activities, programs and resources. Depopulation, however, remains a major challenge to the region as it

threatens the very viability of our communities, schools and businesses. The systematic loss of younger people to other regions and the subsequent loss of their parents and grandparents are the major drivers of this depopulation. The future quality of life and economic viability of the region will depend upon the region's ability to create an economy that can renew its demographics in a way that creates a desirable quality of life for the citizens of Northwest Missouri.

2015

Transportation Infrastructure & Funding

We must work collectively to build a stronger, more viable economy in northwest Missouri, and a sound transportation network is essential to achieving this objective. Sufficient and reliable transportation is crucial to the success of our communities and the overall region. Residents and businesses depend on accessibility to adequately move traffic and transport goods. This is also a major factor in creating a stronger competitive base from which to grow and attract businesses to northwest Missouri.

Economic/Business Development Support

An active and thriving local economy is essential for Northwest Missouri. Many organizations across the 17-county region are engaged in building a stronger, more viable economy for Missouri through a variety of activities, programs and resources. At the core of these efforts is support of small businesses and entrepreneurs. We strongly encourage the ongoing funding of rural economic development programs as well as the continued support for businesses.

Infrastructure and Funding

The definition of infrastructure has expanded to include critical facilities such as water and wastewater systems, levees, storm sewers, streets, public storm shelters, bridges and broadband. Local governments have a challenge obtaining necessary funding to properly address these necessities as well as meet the needs of rural Missouri. We encourage the creation of an infrastructure and economic development bank for Missouri to provide low-interest, long-term financing. This action will add jobs, have long-term local impacts and build a strong competitive base from which to grow our communities.

PK-12 and Higher Education Support

Adequate and sustained support and funding for public education is a keystone to our region's success and development. The core and capital needs of our schools, colleges and universities are at a critical point, and we encourage the legislature to address these needs.

2014

PK-12 and Higher Education Support

Adequate and sustained funding of our public educational institutions is a cornerstone to our region's success and development. The core and capital needs of our educational institutions are at a critical point, and we encourage the legislature to address these needs.

Flood Impacted Infrastructure/ Levees/State Parks

Protection and restoration of property from flood damage is and has been vital to many of our Northwest Missouri communities. The economic base of the entire region is greatly built around the management of rivers. Additionally the restoration and protection of our Missouri State Parks, many of which are closely associated with rivers, is of vital economic importance.

Transportation Infrastructure and Funding

The Missouri Legislature must work together to build a stronger, more viable economy in northwest Missouri, and a sound transportation network is key to achieving this objective. A reliable transportation system is essential for the distribution of goods and services, increased socioeconomic opportunities, improved mobility, the delivery of labor, and emergency response. It also creates a stronger competitive base from which to grow and attract businesses to northwest Missouri.

Water Supply/Wastewater Infrastructure

Northwest Missouri has been affected by drought every decade for the past 60 years. The lack of adequate rainfall has damaged the local agriculture economy and is threatening public water supplies. We encourage the Missouri Legislature to expand programs designed to provide access to affordable abundant water in times of drought or other water emergency.

2013

Drought Mitigation and Response: Northwest Missouri continues to be impacted by a significant drought event. The lack of adequate rainfall has not only damaged the local agriculture economy, but is beginning to threaten public water supplies, particularly those that rely on shallow ground-water wells or small surface reservoirs. We encourage the Missouri Legislature to expand programs designed to provide access to affordable, abundant water in times of drought or other water emergency

K-12 and Higher Education Funding: Adequate and sustained funding of our public educational institutions is a cornerstone to our region's success. The core and capital needs of our educational institutions are at a critical point, and we encourage the legislature to address these needs. We also support the adoption of a higher education funding formula which is fair and balanced for our local institutions.

Rural Economic Development: Economic Development is a vital effort in supporting and enhancing the general financial health of our communities. GNW supports legislation which will provide enhanced tools for our communities to retain and attract businesses. We additionally support efforts to properly balance the rules dealing with Environmental Assessments for projects and Enhanced Enterprise Zones to enable smaller communities to compete effectively without undue regulatory red tape.

Support Solid Waste Management Districts: Recycling and waste reduction infrastructure in northwest Missouri continues to lag behind other parts of the state. In our region, the only support for these initiatives comes from Missouri's Solid Waste Management Districts. These districts provide funding, education, and awareness of recycling and environmental issues, and are governed by a board of local elected officials. Northwest Missouri opposes any legislation that weakens solid waste districts, including Senate Bill 13.

Transportation Infrastructure and Funding: The Missouri Legislature must work together to build a stronger, more viable economy in northwest Missouri, and a sound transportation network is key to achieving this objective. A reliable transportation system is essential for the distribution of goods and services, increased socioeconomic opportunities, improved mobility, the delivery of labor, and emergency response. It also creates a stronger competitive base from which to grow and attract businesses to northwest Missouri.

2012

Transportation and Infrastructure Funding: Maintain adequate funding to service and maintain our highways and lettered routes as well as support efforts to reconstruct levees in the areas affected by recent Missouri River flooding.

- Consider tools to enhance the efforts of the Missouri Department of Transportation and continue support of county transportation efforts such as Bridge Replacement Off-System (BRO) and County Aid Road Trust (CART) programs. Additionally, support resolutions to encourage the Federal Government, United States Corps of Engineers to dedicate additional resources to rebuilding flood protection levees along the Missouri River.

Statewide 9-1-1 Wireless Emergency Services: Design a complete, detailed, and integrated plan that includes a user fee on wireless devices for upgrading statewide 9-1-1 emergency services.

Unfunded or underfunded mandates on local entities: Local governments and educational institutions are a mainstay of our society. As such we encourage State leadership to resist efforts to erode fiscal support of local city and county governments as well as our institutions of primary and higher education.

2011

Transportation: Safe access to employment and education.

Explore critical funding components and support initiatives that provide a basis for transportation funding specific to maintenance of minor roads, lettered routes and community accessibility.

Economic Development: Create an effective and competitive Business Climate in Missouri to retain business and build jobs.

1. Focus and emphasize fair legal practice regarding agribusiness and business components such as worker's compensation; limiting liability of small business cost, and easing regulation to help stimulate economic growth and retain/grow Missouri jobs.
2. Retain and emphasize programs that partner with community economic development for small business investment, workforce development- job skills development, and technology development investment.

Life-Long Learning: Prepare Missouri's citizens for today and tomorrow's workforce challenges

1. Work together (Legislators and community members) to create an Educational Ethic that defines Northwest Missouri as a leader in a high standard of educational attainment and career readiness.
2. Create through legislative statute the ability to interact for a seamless movement of students (from Pre-K - Continuing Education) through the educational system into the business arena.

Funding and Jurisdictional Partnerships: Empower communities and service jurisdictions to work together on creative solutions

Initiate language change that allows communities to pursue accepted funding practices (such as a vote of the people) with an emphasis on multi-jurisdictional boundaries – (Potential projects with a regional or multi community focus may include the Great Northwest Wholesale Water Commission; Hwy 36 Heritage Alliance, and funding initiatives for law enforcement and county/ multi-county 911).

2010

Maintain funding for highway maintenance and encourage continued participation and support for Bridge Replacement Off-System (BRO) and County Aid Road Trust (CART) programs

Preserve programs in economic development that positively impact business development, encourage local match and invest in regional tourism and development – *such as the Highway 36 Heritage Alliance*

Equalize rate mandates of federal and state funding for municipal water/wastewater improvements

GNW Legislative Advisory Watch List:

Endorse legislation (HB 1442) that maintains local taxing jurisdictions' existing voter-approved sales tax rates and enables cities to seek voter-approved general sales tax rates (not to exceed 2%) and capital improvement sales tax (rates not to exceed 1%).

2009

Senate Bill 711

Action: Mirror the Missouri Municipal League's Stance on the statute.

The Statute that was signed into law in 2008 has implications on local governments and their ability to stack locally approved taxes such as capital improvement or general sales taxes. The law also has Property Tax Implications on counties and bearing the expenses of an estimated tax bill.

Regional Water Partnership / Waste Water

Action on Water: Continue Support for the development of this project.

Possible caveats to consider are exemptions on taxes for construction materials associated with the project or the possibility of additional grant funds to help develop the infrastructure.

Action on Waste Water: Continue and expand funding for communities to meet EPA/DNR standards.

Phase in the 2% HMI Rule enforced by the Missouri Water / Wastewater Review Committee

Phone Classification / 911 Funding

Action: Support the House's 2007 Interim Committee's Report on 9-1-1.

This includes support of an on-going revenue source utilizing a recovery fee from wired lines, wireless telephones, Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) and any other device that may call Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP); update the State's definition of technology as it relates to 9-1-1 communication, as well as statewide informational campaign to garner support for a statewide referendum.

Other-Rural Access to Broadband

Northwest Missouri supports the continued work of the Rural High Speed Internet Task Force.

2008

Wastewater Treatment

- a. Incent/assist/fund rural communities to meet EPA/DNR regulations
- b. Give preference to cities needing immediate upgrade
- c. Monitor possible increased DNR fees
- d. Eliminate funding tied to income levels

Regional Water Coalition

- a. **Seek State assistance for 12-county water partnership** [Details: Support the 12-county Northwest Missouri Water Partnership. The partnership is a grassroots effort created to develop a regional water plan to ensure the communities and rural water systems of northwest Missouri will have an abundant source of safe, clean drinking water for the foreseeable future.]
- b. **Support NW Water Partnership Sketch 7** [Details: Seek state financial assistance for the Water Partnership's regional water plan. The plan, known as "Sketch 7", prescribes a series of transmission lines interconnecting seven primary water producers in northwest Missouri, and the development of a regional water plant in Atchison County, Missouri.]
- c. **Increase SRF Funding limits/reduce interest rates** [Details: Modify the Department of Natural Resources' State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) requirements to promote regional projects.]

Economic Development

- a. Establish Missouri Economic Development Code for voluntary local tax incentives
- b. Establish Small Business & Entrepreneurial Growth Act for small employers
- c. Economic Development Org. Tax Credit for donations to economic development organizations
- d. School District Bonding Capacity to include abated properties in assessed valuation
- e. Funding for training and development in rural areas
- f. Employer incentives for employees to seek post-secondary education

Prevailing Wage

- a. Eliminate for rural communities and counties for public facilities
- b. Eliminate for rural school improvements
- c. Mandate local wage reporting to obtain accurate local wage averages

2007

Economic Development

- a. Passage of Missouri Economic Development Code legislation allowing local authority for economic incentives.
- b. Additional Workforce Development funding- specific to industry and job-skills development training
- c. Micro-Loan Seed money and/or vehicle to encourage capital investment for business start-ups and incubator residents

Water-Wastewater

- a. Increase State Revolving Loan Fund to help communities meet Clean Water Act requirements and prioritize rural projects.

Higher Education

- a. Approve Lewis and Clark initiative for funding for capital projects for Northwest Missouri public colleges and universities
- b. Support proposal to fund two years of post-secondary education in Missouri.

Prevailing Wage

- a. Exempt education, wastewater or other specific projects
- b. Require wage reports by all contractors prior to issuance of building permits or occupations licenses at local level.

2006

Alternative Fuels

- a. Promote alternative fuel by legislation to mandate use of ethanol and biodiesel in the State's vehicles – including MoDOT.

Incentives

- a. Allow greenfields for potential development utilizing TIF financing in rural areas as "blight" is redefined. (local incentive, local control)
- b. Support Missouri Quality Jobs initiative as a true positive economic development tool to both rural and urban areas.
- c. Business Retention:
 - Provide funding necessary for retention focus.
 - Explore an incentive program that would recognize and encourage increased investment by a company rather than basing all incentives on new jobs created.

Workforce Development

- a. Encourage development of program for On-the-job Training as OJT offers employers the flexibility to provide employee skills development in the format best suited for that particular workforce challenge.
- b. Increase amount of money in state fund for workforce development because program cap is quickly reached.
- c. Set aside Training dollars for rural areas.
- d. Approve increased funding for higher education to help Missouri present an educated and trained workforce.

Water/wastewater

- a. Allocate more money for water and wastewater infrastructure grants and loans.

2005

Transportation:

- a. **Increase Transportation Funding/Tools:** Those funding packages could include a sales tax for transportation, gas taxes hooked to inflation (SB 101), increased gas tax, toll roads (SB 31), and a balanced licensed fee structure.
- b. **Air Transportation:** Air travel and funding for regional airports is a critical issue. Taxes on Aviation fuel should go to airports rather than the General Fund.
- c. **Private/public Transportation:** Increased funding for public/private transportation that serves veterans, the disabled, handicapped, or low-income citizens continues to be a great need. Also allowing the department of social services to contract with local taxis would provide much needed services, particularly in rural communities where OATS doesn't meet all needs.

Economic Development:

- a. **Equity Capital:** Great Northwest Day at the Capitol citizens encourage legislative action and allocation of resources to create an equity/investment venture capital vehicle to develop public/private partnerships that could include the ability to forgive loans in lieu of workforce and capital investment and would incent investment in small or emerging businesses.
- b. **Workforce:** On-the job training and workforce development are critical. Northwest Missouri supports legislation that allows for training set aside and modifies funding formula to end Title One disparity for rural areas. Increase funding for customized training and on-the-job training. Increase and encourage state funding to develop, enhance, and implement small business and entrepreneurship development.

- c. **Business Climate:** Encourage legislation that creates a business healthy environment that includes worker's compensation reform (SB1) and tort reform. Also encourage state program that provide small business health care cost initiatives.

2004

Telecommunication

- a. Expand rural high-speed internet access
- b. Eliminate gaps in rural cell phone coverage

Economic Development

- a. Improve workforce development and training
- b. Increase business attraction, expansion and retention
- c. Develop resources for incentives and recruiting tools

Education

- a. Revise State Foundation Formula
- b. Strengthen State education system

Transportation

- a. Upgrade funding for highways
- b. Prioritize completion of US 36 to four lanes
- c. Promote ethanol and bio-diesel production and use

Healthcare

- a. Reduce rising healthcare costs
- b. Ensure availability of rural healthcare services
- c. Advance funding for rural healthcare

2003

Regional Telecommunications:

- a. Improved Regional Cell Phone Access
- b. Increased Broadband access
- c. Expanded Local-Calling access
- d. Increased support for Distance Learning & Telemedicine

Regional Transportation: Transportation Funding

- a. Complete 4-Lane Highway 36
- b. Increased regional input for transportation projects
- c. Base highway funding on vehicle miles traveled
- d. Develop a highway funding bill that is passable

Regional Economic Development:

- a. More tax credits transferable and applied to small business
- b. Authorize all counties to pass an economic development tax.
- c. Provide state production incentives for Bio-Diesel
- d. Constitutional amendment to allow Cash Incentives

Regional Lifelong Learning:

- a. Increase funding for schools teaching community development, leadership and entrepreneurial training.
- b. Encourage participation in the A+ program and expand funding for that program
- c. Fund Needs-Based Scholarship programs
- d. Stop Cutting Budget for Higher Education
- e. Fund capital improvement projects
- f. Support education consortiums to allow more distance learning in schools.

The Impact of GNW Day Priorities

IMPACT: Rep. Diane Franklin's legislation (HB 1506) was signed by the governor, but not funded. Therefore, there is a program to help rural economic development organizations, but no money to implement it. In 2016, HB 2007 allocated \$250,000 to this program.

Relevant Priority: Rural Economic Development-2013 and 2015, 2016

IMPACT: Governor Nixon is currently requesting an increase in higher education in lieu of freezing tuition. Relevant Priority: Education-2003, 2004, 2013, 2014 and 2015

IMPACT: In 2015, Big Lake State Park received some major attention (~\$800,000) to address issues stemming from the 2011 floods. Eight new cabins were built along with three new shower facilities. Work was also completed on the park's playground.

Relevant Priority: Flood Impacted Infrastructure/ Levees/State Parks-2014

IMPACT: Due to drought conditions experienced in northwest Missouri in 2012-13, a substantial benefit to Little Otter Creek Reservoir project and the Great Northwest Wholesale Water Commission. In 2016, HB 2006 \$1 was inserted as a place holder for the Multipurpose Water Resource Program Renewable Water Program Fund, forcing DNR to promulgate rules for the program. In 2016, HB 1716 required that DNR provide information to communities on advanced technologies to upgrade existing lagoon-based wastewater systems to meet any new or existing discharge requirements.

Relevant Priority: Water/wastewater or Infrastructure-2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

IMPACT: This legislative year new rules were imposed in regards to EEZs.

Relevant Priority: Economic Development-2013

IMPACT: During the 2015 legislative session, Senate Bill?? And House Bill were both passed and signed by Governor Nixon.

Relevant Priority: Support Solid Waste Management Districts-2013

IMPACT: A MoDOT project to four-lane US Highway 36 was completed the summer of 2010. In 2016, HB 2004 \$20,000,000 of General Revenue was set aside for the Missouri Moves Fund program that is a cost-share program for economic development projects across the state.

Relevant Priority: Transportation-2003 and 2004, 2016