



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

Bill Stouffer
21st Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 426
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

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Contact: Aaron Baker
(573) 751-1507

Senator-Elect Bill Stouffer Details Swearing-In, Inaugural Events

Notes That All Missourians Are Welcome and Encouraged to Participate

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator-elect Bill Stouffer, R-Marshall, today announced details of the swearing-in of Missouri’s new and re-elected lawmakers, and also relayed the schedule of public events planned for the inauguration of Governor-elect Matt Blunt.

“With all the rain we’ve had since the elections, I’m still out in the fields,” said Sen.-elect Stouffer, who farms in Saline County. “But we’ll have everything harvested soon, and I’ll be ready to hit the ground running in Jefferson City.”

Stouffer will take the oath of office of state senator in a brief ceremony on the floor of the senate chamber immediately following the commencement of the 2005 legislative session at noon on Jan. 5. Joining Stouffer on the floor will be his wife, Sue Ellen, and either of their two sons, Bert or Rob.

“We’re going to flip a coin to see who prevails,” Stouffer joked.

Also joining Stouffer will be 16 others as half of the senate’s 34 seats were up for election this past November. (All 163 representatives will be sworn-in in the House chamber at roughly the same time.) Guests and the public can witness the ceremonies from chamber galleries.

Stouffer’s capitol office is hosting an open reception following the swearing-in ceremony. Governor-elect Matt Blunt becomes Governor Blunt five days later on Jan. 10.

“Witnessing the swearing in of our next governor is the witnessing of history,” Sen.-elect Stouffer said. “Inaugural day is a day for Mr. Blunt, and a day for all he will soon serve as governor.”

The first of the inaugural day’s public events is a prayer service at 9 a.m. at Jefferson City’s First Baptist Church (301 E. Capitol Ave., phone: 573-634-3603). At 10 a.m., a parade begins winding its way from a starting point several blocks southeast of the Capitol to the Capitol’s south steps, where the swearing-in ceremony is to begin at 11:15 a.m. The new governor will then greet the public at the governor’s mansion beginning at 2 p.m. and will preside over the traditional inaugural ball scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. in the Capitol rotunda.

No invitations, tickets or money are needed to participate in these public inaugural events.

“Everyone is welcome, and welcome without obligation or cost,” Stouffer said.

Governor-elect Blunt will be the state’s second-youngest chief executive as Missouri’s 54th governor. His current term as Missouri’s secretary of state will end when his gubernatorial term begins at noon on Jan. 10. Other candidates slated to take the oath of statewide office that day include State Treasurer-elect Sarah Steelman, Lt. Governor-elect Peter Kinder, Secretary of State-elect Robin Carnahan and re-elected Attorney General Jay Nixon.

Anyone interested in further details on the approaching swearing-in ceremony or the gubernatorial inauguration can call Sen.-elect Stouffer’s capitol office: (573) 751-1507.

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