



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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# Lawmakers Sworn in, Assigned to Committees as Session Begins

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JEFFERSON CITY — The new legislative session in Jefferson City began on Jan. 3. Lawmakers opened with much pomp-and-circumstance, the swearing in of all newly elected legislators, and the introduction of five new members of the Senate. That evening, friends and relatives joined lawmakers for the Legislative Ball. I had a great time with the nearly 400 guests who attended, and I would like to thank everyone who came to celebrate my return to Jefferson City.

By the end of this week, all members have been assigned to their legislative committees. I have been selected to four of the most useful and evolving committees, to help with issues affecting the 16<sup>th</sup> District.

- The Senate Appropriations Committee figures out the best way to use taxpayer dollars to provide services Missourians deem responsible and prudent.
- The Transportation Committee forms state policy to ensure safe and reliable travel.
- Members of the Agriculture, Conservation, Parks and Natural Resources Committee deal with a variety of issues affecting us in rural Missouri.
- Finally, issues surrounding taxes and credits are addressed by the Ways and Means Committee. This committee may become one of the most interesting and controversial. The rumor is that within the next few years, lawmakers will attempt an overhaul of Missouri's tax system. As this occurs, I want to be able to express the concerns of rural Missourians. I have already started some preliminary research on what effect the elimination of some taxes will have.

I also want to reiterate how much we want to hear from you. We are always available to answer your questions on all issues facing the state of Missouri. Please feel free to contact us with your concerns at (573) 751-2108 or via e-mail at [Frank.Barnitz@senate.mo.gov](mailto:Frank.Barnitz@senate.mo.gov).

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