



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the  
Week of Nov. 19, 2007**

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# Pre-Filing Bills

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JEFFERSON CITY – I hope everyone had an opportunity to spend some time with family and friends over the long holiday weekend. It's a great time to take stock of our lives and to give thanks for the blessings we have received.

In addition to all of the activities of this time of the year, the change in seasons reminds me how quickly the summer has passed and how soon another legislative session will begin in Jefferson City.

Unlike the U.S. Congress, which meets nearly year-round, the Missouri General Assembly is truly a citizen legislature. We convene in early January each year and adjourn in mid-May. We are generally in session from Monday through Thursday, although some weeks we may have session on Friday or even on the weekends if legislative business is especially pressing.

In preparation for the beginning of the legislative session in January, Missouri Senate rules allow members to pre-file bills on December 1<sup>st</sup>. By custom, each member of the senate, beginning with the most senior member, picks their top three priority bills and they are each assigned a number. Conventional wisdom holds that bills that are pre-filed and get a low number are more likely to pass, though passing bills is more art than science, so there's no guarantee.

This year I will be pre-filing several bills, and I'll talk more about them in this column over the next few weeks.

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The Senate Appropriations Committee, which crafts the Senate's version of the state budget, will begin holding public hearings December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Capitol. If you are interested in how the state spends your tax dollars, this is your chance to influence the process. Just call the Appropriations Staff toll free at 866-475-6083 or e-mail at [public.testimony@senate.mo.gov](mailto:public.testimony@senate.mo.gov). For a listing of the time, location, and department heads who will testify at the Appropriations Committee hearings, visit <http://www.senate.mo.gov/07info/hrings.htm>. Although lawmakers begin crafting the budget before the legislative session begins, the real work starts after the governor outlines his budget priorities in his annual State of the State Address, which he delivers in late January.

I've spent a lot of time lately catching up with folks in the district who I didn't have time to meet with during the fall harvest. I've been traveling throughout the district, attending meetings, and talking to folks about their legislative priorities for the coming year.

I also had an opportunity to go deer hunting with my son during the firearms season. We had pretty good luck, but in talking to other hunters I think the deer harvest will be down considerably from the 235,054 deer taken during last year's firearms season, mostly due to this year's warm weather. Hunters in the 18<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District will have another chance to bag a deer during the antlerless deer hunting season from December 8-16. Any hunter with a firearms deer hunting permit of any type may take antlerless deer in the 73 counties that are open during this portion of the season. Landowner Any-Deer and Antlerless Deer Permits are valid only on the property for which they are issued.

If you have any questions or comments about this or any other issue, give my Capitol office a call at (573) 751-7852, send me an email at [wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov), or drop a line to Room 434, State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.