



*Nothing is politically right  
that is morally wrong.*

**MISSOURI SENATE**  
JEFFERSON CITY

*Free and fair discussion  
is the firmest friend of truth.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 31, 2007

## **Sen. Michael Gibbons Announces Sen. Robert Mayer as Education Committee Chair**

---

KENNETT/POPLAR BLUFF — Senate President Pro Tem Michael R. Gibbons, R-Kirkwood, is today announcing his appointment of Sen. Robert Mayer, R-Dexter, as chairman of the Senate Education Committee, which is responsible for funding and policy matters affecting public K-12 schools, as well as public colleges and universities.

Senator Mayer, joining Sen. Gibbons at today's two in-district press conferences, was appointed to the Education Committee during his first year in the Senate in 2005. He then became vice-chairman in 2007 under then-chairman Sen. Gary Nodler, who has since moved to chair the Senate Appropriations Committee.

"Rob is committed to making sure that every child, no matter where they live, has access to a world class education," Sen. Gibbons said. "A person's ability to live the American Dream is based on how well they are educated and prepared. Rob's experience as a commonsense leader, a father, and a husband to an educator makes him the best choice in guiding the Legislature to make sure that both our elementary and secondary schools and our state's higher education system prepare Missouri's students to compete and excel in today's global marketplace."

"I am grateful for, and pleased with this new appointment," said Sen. Mayer. "I've been fortunate enough to be assigned to the Education Committee and am proud to have been part of a half-billion dollar increase in state money to public schools over the past three years. I'm also glad to have helped initiate the largest capital improvement project to our colleges and universities in state history with the approval of the Lewis & Clark Discovery Initiative that will put more than \$350 million into those improvements over the next six years. I thank Senator Gibbons for his confidence, and I look forward to taking on the leadership of this important committee that so greatly impacts our youth as they prepare to be the leaders of tomorrow."

— MORE —

---

Contact for the office of Sen. Mayer: Irene Murray, (573) 751-3859 – [imurray@senate.mo.gov](mailto:imurray@senate.mo.gov)

Contact for the office of Sen. Gibbons: Farrah Fite, (573) 751-1562 – [ffite@senate.mo.gov](mailto:ffite@senate.mo.gov)

Sen. Mayer noted the state's operating budget for Fiscal Year 2008, which began July 1, features significant funding increases for public K-12 schools, colleges and universities. He is also aware of the challenges Missouri educators face as his wife, Nancy, is a 29-year veteran teacher instructing middle school math in their hometown of Dexter.

"I know firsthand the daunting tasks our teachers face every day in our state's classrooms, and I couldn't feel a deeper sense of personal and fiscal commitment to the education of our children," said Sen. Mayer. "It's clear why the annual state appropriation to public education is specifically mentioned in the State Constitution — the only specific state funding outlined by Missouri's highest law. In working with Senator Gibbons and our legislative colleagues, I will do everything possible to ensure that our students are the world's best educated while making sure our teachers are fairly compensated."

— *END* —