



JANUARY 18, 2007

COMMITTEES: An Important Part of the Legislative Process

I recently received my committee assignments for this term. I will be the chairman of the Senate Governmental Accountability and Fiscal Oversight Committee. I am excited about this appointment because one of the driving forces behind my desire to run for legislative office several years ago was a conviction that government should take as little as possible from its citizens and should make the most of what it does take. Any legislative proposal with a price tag of \$100,000 or more is required to come before this committee for review. I am committed to being vigilant against any growth in our government that is not within the legitimate functions of your government and does not provide a substantial, necessary benefit to the people of Missouri.

Additionally, I plan to expand the customary scope of the committee by examining existing government practices and programs, looking for ways to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse while suggesting positive solutions for greater efficiency. This chairmanship will benefit the people of the 29th District, because I will have a significantly amplified voice on every piece of legislation affecting Missouri's budget.

I am also honored to have been promoted to the position of Vice Chairman of the Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee. I served on this committee last session and look forward to this leadership position on the panel that deals with the prized rights and responsibilities of our citizens. As I did last session, I will continue serving on the Ways and Means Committee, the Economic Development, Tourism and Local Government Committee, and the Seniors Families and Public Health Committee.

I am grateful for these sought-after committee assignments in my second session. They present a bright opportunity for heightened benefits to the 29th District and an additional opportunity for input on many of the crucial issues of our day.

As private citizens, each of you also has a very genuine opportunity to participate in the legislative committee process as well. These standing committees of the Senate take public testimony from private citizens who are interested in proposed legislation. No invitation is necessary. If you are interested in testifying about any piece of pending legislation, please contact me so I may arrange the opportunity for you to do so when the bill is scheduled for committee hearing.

As always, I welcome your ideas, questions and concerns about Missouri government. You can contact me at the Capitol as follows: (573) 751-2234, jack.goodman@senate.mo.org or by writing to Senator Jack Goodman, Missouri State Capitol, Room 331, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

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