



## MISSOURI SENATE

Jeff Smith  
4<sup>th</sup> Senate District

JEFFERSON CITY

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# Statement from Sen. Jeff Smith on Governatorial Appointment

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JEFFERSON CITY — State Sen. Jeff Smith, D-St. Louis, has issued the following statement regarding the gubernatorial appointment of Derio Gambaro to the State Board of Education:

“As I noted when his appointment was first announced, Derio Gambaro has been a dedicated public servant for a decade, from his tenure in the state House to his work on the Election Board. He continued this work as a diligent and thorough member of the State Board of Education.

“However, given the specificity with which I outlined my opposition to the governor's earlier appointee from the 4<sup>th</sup> District, I was disappointed that the administration chose the same path. These appointees have vocally supported school vouchers and the consideration of religious theories of human origin in public school settings. While I continue to support public school choice, I fear that the aforementioned positions may breach the separation of church and state, and I cannot sponsor nominees who advocate them.

“I thank Mr. Gambaro for his service in the interim, and hope to have the opportunity to work with the governor's office to help find a suitable replacement.”

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