



*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

January 9, 2008

Senate Puts Focus on Issues People Care About ***Senate Leader Challenges Lawmakers to Put Elections Aside and Do the People's Work***

JEFFERSON CITY – Saying lawmakers owe the people their best effort on property tax protections, ending illegal immigration and making quality healthcare available and affordable for all Missourians, Senate President Pro Tem Michael R. Gibbons, R-Kirkwood, today started the Second Regular Session of the 94th General Assembly. Gibbons acknowledged it is an election year with uncertainty, but challenged lawmakers to tackle issues that are important to Missourians.

"These are some of the concerns that people bring up to me from all around our state," Gibbons said. "It's not a game to the people at home; they expect us to fix these problems."

Gibbons said chief among this year's priorities is to protect homeowners from back door tax increases caused by higher reassessments.

"Reassessment is about keeping values accurate, it is not supposed to be about raising taxes," Gibbons said. "We must protect taxpayers from back door tax increases by requiring tax rate rollbacks, closing tax increase loopholes, and increasing relief to our seniors and the disabled."

Gibbons said Congress' continued failure to protect our borders means the State Legislature will work to protect the safety, jobs, scholarships and benefits that belong to lawful Missourians, rather than rewarding illegal immigrants at the taxpayers' expense.

He also said the Senate should continue its efforts to help more Missourians find and afford healthcare.

"The people want and deserve health insurance through a marketplace that puts them in the driver's seat when it comes to healthcare decisions for their families," he said.

Gibbons ended by challenging senators to work together to improve the lives of Missourians.

"Political pundits say nothing much will happen here this year," he said. "We owe it to the people of Missouri to prove them wrong."

The 2008 regular session will run through May 16. To track legislation visit

www.senate.mo.gov.

###