



**Column For Week of: September 8, 2008**

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## **The Senate Reconvenes for Veto Session**

The halls of the state capitol came alive as Missouri lawmakers returned to the Capitol this week for the annual veto session. Constitutionally, the veto session is held every year on the first Wednesday following the second Monday in September when there is vetoed legislation. This year, that day fell on September 10.

This year, the governor vetoed three bills that originated in the Senate and one that originated in the House. A two-thirds majority of both House and Senate members is required to override a veto from the governor. This adds up to 109 votes in the House and 23 votes in the Senate — an amount more difficult to obtain than the simple majority that was required to initially pass a bill. While there was discussion on the vetoed legislation, we did not successfully override any vetoes.

In addition to meeting to review vetoed legislation, we also took advantage of the opportunity to say goodbye to those retiring from the Senate. This year, we will hold a retirement ceremony for seven retired or retiring senators: President Pro Tem Michael R. Gibbons, Senate Minority Floor Leader Maida Coleman, Sen. Bill Alter, Sen. Chuck Gross, Sen. Chris Koster, Sen. John Loudon and Sen. Harry Kennedy. I wish each of these colleagues the best of luck in their future careers.

The veto session is one of the times during the interim when Senate members are together in the Capitol, so we also use the week for committee meetings. This week, the Joint Committee on Capital Improvements and Leases Oversight, of which I am a member, met to discuss state-funded capital improvement projects in our state. Capital improvements include new construction such as the new facility in this year's budget for

Linn State Technical College's heavy equipment technology program and the renovation of facilities such as the work at Montauk State Park to make improvements to the cabins on the property. Our job in committee is to monitor the progress of these projects.

With the veto session concluded, we will now look to the upcoming legislative session. On December 1, legislators will be able to start filing bills. The Senate will reconvene for the 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session of the 95th General Assembly on January 7, 2009. I look forward to the session and the progress we can continue to make for our state.

### **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to call me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2108. You can also write to me at Frank Barnitz, Missouri Senate, State Capitol, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

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