

# State Senator Robert Mayer The Mayer Memo

Senator Robert Mayer - Serving Butler, Dunklin, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley, Stoddard & Wayne Counties



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## Onward to the New Year

Missouri lawmakers begin the new legislative session on January 7, and I am looking forward to returning to Jefferson City to work alongside other Missouri lawmakers as we seek to draft and debate legislation designed to improve the lives of Missouri citizens.

Each year, there's a lot of hopeful anticipation as members of the legislative body return to the state capitol, meet to set priorities and strategies, begin listening to public testimony and begin considering proposed legislation during the 18 weeks or so that we are in Jefferson City. This year, we know we face an unexpected challenge of budget deficits brought on by the nation's struggling economy. We know we have our work cut out for us, but because the General Assembly conservatively crafted annual spending plans over the past four years, Missouri will fare better than most states.

As vice-chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am committed to carefully considering the needs of our state's citizens as we work to balance revenue with spending. I feel very confident that any steps that may become necessary will be short-lived.

In addition to the budget, much of my focus during the legislative year, as always, will be on education. As chair of the Senate Education Committee and a long-time supporter of education, I will continue to consider and help pass beneficial legislation that makes it possible for more Missourians to go to college and earn an education.

I encourage residents and students of southeast Missouri to visit the state capitol during the legislative session to see the lawmaking process up-close. My office has relocated to Room 422, and I am pleased to have Irene Murray again serve as my legislative aide in Jefferson City and Brad Jarrell as my legislative assistant in Dexter. I also want to welcome new staff member Jessica Land, who will serve as the office's administrative assistant.

In next week's column we will look at the first week of legislative activity, and I will continue to report on weekly activities, happenings and events from Jefferson City through my newspaper column and timely press releases. To access more information about the 2009 legislative session, I encourage you to visit [www.senate.mo.gov/mayer](http://www.senate.mo.gov/mayer)

I want to also take this opportunity to once again thank you for the trust you've bestowed in me for a second term as your state senator. I pledge to work to the best of my ability and to continue to do all that I can to represent the needs and interests of all of southeast Missouri citizens.

If you have comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by phone at 1-877-291-5584.

All the best to you and yours for 2009.

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**Capitol Office**

State Capitol Building  
Room 331  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

**Website:**

<http://www.senate.mo.gov/mayer>

**Phone Number:**

573.751.3859

**Fax:**

573.526.1384