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Column for the Week of:

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Paper Copies of Missouri Tax Forms Now Available

JEFFERSON CITY — With 2009 Missouri state tax forms no longer readily available at public libraries and post offices, many constituents in my District and across the state were upset about the Missouri Department of Revenue's decision to no longer make tax forms available in bulk at those locations. The department implemented the cost-saving strategy in response to the state's current economic crisis, but the decision was leaving some Missouri taxpayers without a way to file their taxes.

To alleviate the difficulty this was causing, the department recently set up a toll-free number — 800-877-6881 — for residents to request paper copies of state tax forms. The hotline is accommodating those taxpayers who do not have access to a computer to download forms or to file electronically or do not have access to a fax machine to receive requested tax forms. Previously, the only way to obtain a tax form was if you received one by mail, by accessing one online, or through an automated Fax-On-Demand request. The department is encouraging taxpayers, if possible, to file returns electronically and estimates *not* printing excess forms will save the department \$65,000.

In most instances, taxpayers who used a Department of Revenue form last year and mailed it in will have one automatically mailed to them. Missouri taxpayers also have the option of downloading tax forms from the department's Web site — www.dor.mo.gov/tax — or though the automated fax system at (573) 751-4800. While libraries no longer have a stockpile of forms available, many libraries across the state do have access to a limited number of the standard MO-1040 tax forms and the Senior/Disabled Property Tax forms. Libraries that did not receive a packet of tax forms can call (573) 751-5337. Tax forms are readily available for seniors who take advantage of volunteer tax assistance programs at local libraries and community centers.

I understand the frustration this change in the distribution of tax forms created for some taxpayers and I'm pleased the Department of Revenue took steps to help remedy the situation.

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 (866) 271-2844.

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