



State Senator Scott T. Rupp ~ District 2

# The Rupp Report

*Serving Lincoln County & St. Charles County***Column For Week of: December 14, 2009**[Website](#) | [Biography](#) | [Newsroom](#)

## Senate Committee Readies for Congressional Redistricting

The state of Missouri has taken its first step to completing its constitutionally mandated task of Congressional redistricting following the 2010 Census with the creation of the [Senate Select Committee on Redistricting](#). As the newly appointed chairman of the committee, it is my task to make sure the state Legislature is prepared to fulfill its role in redrawing Congressional districts in 2011.

In Missouri, Congressional redistricting is the responsibility of the Legislature. Every 10 years, the Legislature is tasked with the awesome responsibility of making sure Congressional districts are drawn equally and fairly so that every vote counts.

Redistricting is a key component to fairness in our government and it's absolutely essential that our state's census figures reflect our true population. Census Bureau statistics determine the allocation of Congressional seats, electoral votes, and government program funding.

Missouri currently holds nine Congressional seats. There has been great concern that our state could lose one of those Congressional seats if our population declines. It now appears we could be on target to retain the current number of seats, but only time and the most accurate census statistics will tell.

There is a group of Missouri citizens who are committed to helping our state collect the best census data possible. The *Statewide Complete Count Committee* will be meeting with state senators in January to discuss their work in helping our state gather the best census data possible.

In Missouri and throughout the U.S., census forms will be mailed to households beginning in March of 2010. Census takers will continue to collect census data from those who do not return their census forms through July. By law, the Census Bureau must deliver population data to the President of the United States in December for reapportionment. Also by law, the Census Bureau must complete delivery of redistricting data to states by March of 2011.

The Missouri Legislature must draw and approve new Congressional districts during the 2011 regular session, or face a special session, to ensure filing in February of 2012 for Congressional District candidates.

The first U.S. Census occurred in 1790 under then-Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson. The census, taken by horseback, counted 3.9 million inhabitants. Since that time, the Census has been conducted every 10 years. In Census 2000, 281.4 million people were counted. The 2000 Census is reportedly the most accurate in history.

I hope Missourians will join me in doing their part in ensuring our 2010 Census truly reflects our state population and our correct representation in Washington, D.C.

As always, if you have any 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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