



Senator Matt Bartle – Serving Jackson County

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## [A New Session Presents Challenges and Opportunities](#)

Now that the 2009 legislative session is underway in Jefferson City, it is time to start moving forward on important goals such as balancing the state's beleaguered budget and enacting policies that will help promote job creation and economic growth. We begin 2009 with a new governor and many newly elected legislators filling the rank of the Missouri General Assembly, and also with the legislative and executive branches in the hands of different political parties.

Cooperation seems to be the general sentiment inside the Capitol, and we know that to meet the difficult challenges we face, we must work together and reach across party lines. We owe it to the people of Missouri to pursue fiscally prudent and responsible policies, especially when so many are struggling in these tough economic times. With the new session comes a new opportunity to work collaboratively—from the Senate chamber to the governor's mansion. I know we have our work cut out for us in the coming months, especially where the state budget is concerned, but I am hopeful we can work past our differences and accomplish a great deal.

This week we saw the baton being passed to a new governor as the inauguration ceremonies were held at the Capitol. I am reminded of how blessed we are to live in a country where the transfer of power happens so peacefully. For most citizens, the

inauguration is merely a day of pomp and ceremony that culminates in a big celebration. In reality, it is one of the most important functions of a free democratic society.

In other parts of the world, transitions of power have been accompanied by fighting, chaos and bloodshed. For well over 200 years, we have experienced the peaceful transfer of power at the national, state and local levels. This is a blessing not to be taken for granted.

If you have any 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 e-mail at [matt\\_bartle@senate.mo.gov](mailto:matt_bartle@senate.mo.gov) or by phone at (888) 711-9278. My web address is <http://www.senate.mo.gov/bartle>.

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