



State Senator

Rita Heard Days

District 14



Column For Week of: April 13, 2009

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## State Budget Work Begins on the Senate Floor

### *Federal Stimulus Funds Play A Role In This Year's Budget Process*

The full Missouri Senate this week began debating our state's budget. At the end of this process, we will pass a fair and balanced budget for the citizens of our state. Few people realize that work on the FY 2010 budget began in December 2008 with several meetings between members of the [Senate Appropriations Committee](#). This 11-member committee is charged with considering and reporting on all bills and matters pertaining to general appropriations and disbursement of public money. Through these past months, the committee has been busy laying out the Senate's spending plan and goal for the FY 2010 budget

This year's budget process is different than previous years due to the passage of the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#). Many states have received some form of federal funding to jumpstart their economies and create and save millions of jobs. This act sets out to:

- Create or save more than 3.5 million jobs over the next two years;
- Begin digitally recording Americans' health records, which would reduce medical errors and save billions in health care costs;
- Provide the capitol over the next three years to ultimately double domestic renewable energy capacity;
- Weatherize 75 percent of federal building space and more than one million homes;
- Fund the shortfall in Pell Grants, increasing the maximum award level by \$500 benefiting seven million students, and provide a new higher education tax cut to nearly four million students;

- Enacts a \$150 billion investment in new infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and mass transit systems;
- Provide an \$800 Making Work Pay tax credit for 129 million working households, and cut taxes for the families of millions of children through the Child Tax Credit;
- Require high levels of transparency, oversight, and accountability.

As our state receives funds under the recovery act, our state's Transform Missouri Initiative website will list every dollar received, the date upon which the funds were received, the federal source of the funds, the state account into which those funds have been deposited, and the items for which those funds were spent. Visit <http://transform.mo.gov/transparency> to see how our state is using these funds to move our economy forward.

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The Senate produces a weekly general column covering Senate action throughout the legislative session. If you would like to read more on important measures my colleagues and I are working on in the General Assembly for the citizens of our state, visit [www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov) and then click on Senate Newsroom. You can even subscribe to receive this great legislative resource, which is updated each week.

If you have comments or questions about our state's budget process, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, or any other matter involving state government, please feel free to contact my office at (573) 751-4106.

*Senator Rita Heard Days represents a portion of  
St. Louis County in the Missouri Senate.*



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