



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the  
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# Veto Session

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JEFFERSON CITY – On September 16, Missouri lawmakers will return to the state Capitol to consider the bills vetoed by the governor. The Missouri Constitution, Section 32, requires members of the Missouri General Assembly to meet on the first Wednesday following the second Monday in September for the annual Veto Session. Typically this is a brief gathering because legislative overrides of gubernatorial vetoes are rare. The Senate President Pro Tem recently told reporters he would be surprised if the House or Senate attempted to override any of the governor's vetoes this month.

Governor Nixon has vetoed more than 20 bills approved by lawmakers during the 2009 legislative session; 11 of those bills originated in the House and the rest originated in the Senate. The governor says he rejected some of the bills because of the need to set aside more money to weather the current economic crisis. Many of the bills he vetoed used some of the federal stimulus dollars allocated to Missouri, and the governor says it's prudent to hold a portion of that money back in case it's needed during the next budget cycle.

Although there have been some promising signs of an economic recovery nationally, state revenues continue to fall below previous projections, giving the governor little choice but to withhold spending. The governor suspended funding for several projects in northeast Missouri which would boost our local economy, but he has pledged to restore funding for these projects when the economy improves.

The governor vetoed several bills because they did not agree with federal regulations, because they attempted to bypass voters to increase taxes, or because he did not agree with the policy implications of the bill. To see a complete list of the bills signed or vetoed by Governor Nixon, visit <http://governor.mo.gov/actions/>.

I also want to congratulate the Mexico Family YMCA, which just received \$350,000 in Neighborhood Assistance Program tax credits to help expand the facility. The improvements will include a new gymnasium and fitness space, additional recreational activities and a wellness program. Knox County also received \$350,000 in NAP tax credits to help establish a community center in Edina, which will serve as a gathering place for the community and will promote healthy lifestyles.

If you have any questions or comments about this or any other issue, give my Capitol office a call at (573) 751-7852, send me an email at [wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov), or drop a line to Room 434, State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.