



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the  
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# Looking Ahead

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JEFFERSON CITY – Although the Missouri Senate did not attempt to override any of the governor’s vetoes during the annual Veto Session last week, we did have an opportunity to look ahead to the next legislative session that begins in January. During committee hearings held during the Veto Session and numerous informal discussions with fellow senators, I came away with a pretty good idea of what we will be facing in 2010.

The biggest challenge facing the Missouri General Assembly next year will be the budget, just as budget discussions dominated the 2009 session. Lawmakers and the governor have prudently held back some of the federal stabilization dollars to plug holes in the 2010 state budget, though there are concerns it won’t be enough. State revenue collections continue to fall as the economy continues to sputter, even though there are some signs the recession is ending.

One immediate way to improve the economy is to spur the growth of jobs, and that’s something the President Pro Tem of the Missouri Senate has pledged to make a priority during the next legislative session. We have worked hard on economic development issues during the last few sessions with mixed results. The economic crash certainly threw a wrench into some of our efforts to provide incentives to companies willing to provide good paying jobs with health benefits to our citizens. Those incentives remain available but too few companies are in a position to take advantage of them in the current economic climate. The President Pro Tem of the Senate recently told reporters that state lawmakers need to see if there are any “tools in the toolbox” that other states are using to promote job creation which might work well in Missouri.

While I've been back in the district during the interim, I have had a chance to talk to a lot of folks in northeast Missouri who are hurting right now because a family member has been laid off or had his or her hours reduced. I'm sure my colleagues are hearing similar stories across the state, and I am confident we will work in a bipartisan spirit to find ways to attract new businesses to our state.

Now that it's officially fall folks are going to be seeing a lot of farm equipment on the rural roads as the fall harvest gets underway. I just want to remind everyone to be thinking of safety since agriculture remains the most dangerous industry in Missouri. Children, especially, need to be made aware of the potential dangers on the farm. One good resource for parents and teachers in farming communities is the Farm Safety 4 Just Kids organization, which helps children understand the importance of safety in farming. You can visit their website at <http://www.fs4jk.org/>.

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.