

State Senator Robert Mayer The Mayer Memo

Senator Robert Mayer - Serving Butler, Dunklin, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley, Stoddard & Wayne Counties



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A New Year of Challenges — and Opportunities

The New Year's holiday, which celebrates the end of one year and the beginning of a new one, often brings hope, optimism and anticipation for what lies ahead and a self-evaluation of what we might do better in the new year. It's an opportunity to put our best foot forward — with a renewed spirit — to handle whatever successes and challenges the new year may bring.

Given the state of the national economy, we already know 2010 will be a tough economic year for our state. As chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am keenly aware our committee faces difficult, but necessary decisions regarding our state budget. This is the second year in a row revenue has decreased, and while our conservative budgeting has left an anticipated \$1.1 billion of federal budget stabilization money to use in the next fiscal year, we will still face difficult decisions. We must also consider the potential impact that proposed legislation coming out of Washington, D.C., such as health care and cap and trade measures, could have on our state's financial situation.

Economists are still unsure about the immediate future of the U.S. economy, however there are many who believe that the outlook for the new year looks promising. The good news is that periods of economic prosperity generally follow a recessionary period, so we can remain optimistic our nation's economic relief will come — hopefully sooner than later.

In the meantime, our state's budget committee will continue to work diligently not to spend beyond our state's means so that we can ensure our future prosperity. We are also committed to managing taxpayer dollars — your money — without raising taxes and minimizing the loss of vital programs and services.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, in his State of the City address to New Yorkers earlier this year, said: "In every crisis there is opportunity and in every recession there is rebirth."

Heading into the new year, those words echo my own hopes and expectations for our state's financial future. I am mindful of the enormous task that is before us, and I feel very privileged to have been chosen to lead our state through this financial crisis.

In the new year, I am pleased to once again have Irene Foster serve as my executive assistant in Jefferson City and Brad Jarrell as my legislative assistant in Dexter. I also want to welcome a new staff member, Corey Jackson, who will be serving as my chief of staff in Jefferson City. Corey is a

2000 graduate of Dexter High School and holds both a bachelor's degree and law degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

I want to also take this moment to once again thank you for the opportunity to serve as your state senator and represent your interests and priorities in Jefferson City. I pledge to work to the best of my ability, and look forward to working with you again in the new year.

As always, if you have 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 phone at 1-877-291-5584.

All the best to you and yours for 2010.

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