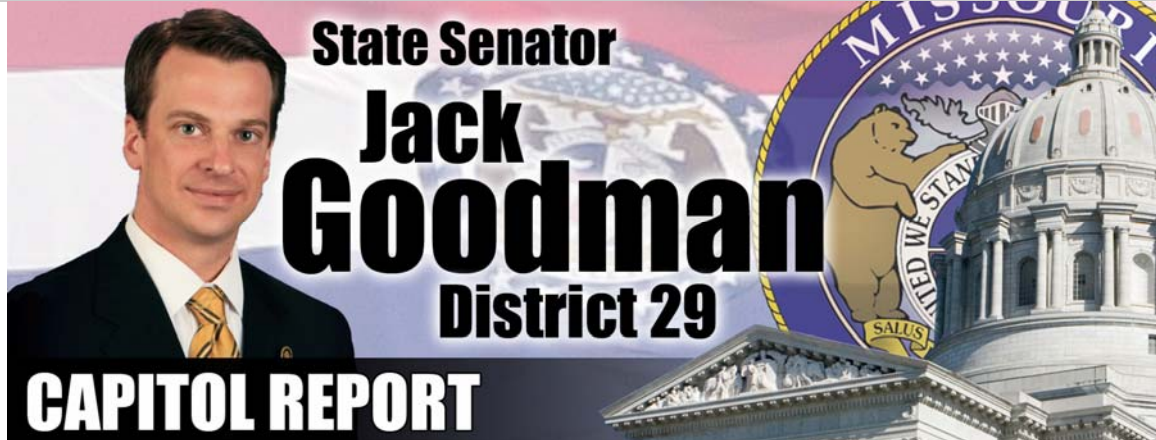


January 15, 2009



Senator Jack Goodman – Serving Barry, Lawrence, McDonald, Ozark, Stone and Taney Counties

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[2009 Legislative Session Off to a Positive Start](#)

Last week marked the beginning of the 2009 legislative session here in the Capital City as the Missouri Senate convened on Wednesday, January 7. With a new session comes a new opportunity to refocus our priorities while we work to better the lives of Missourians in 2009 and beyond.

Seventeen senators, including myself, took the oath of office during an opening ceremony on January 7. We have six new members, as well as 11 senators who were re-elected for a second term last November. Again, I want to thank the people of the 29th District for allowing me to continue being your voice in the Senate for four more years. I do not take the responsibility lightly.

Your legislature has our work cut out for us this year, but the general sentiment in the halls of the Capitol is one of cooperation. We must not allow partisan differences to prevent us from tackling the many challenges we all face together. There are many issues on which the major political parties disagree, but we must focus on the areas of common concern in times like these to address the serious issues facing our people, such as job creation and boosting Missouri's economy.

This week, the Capitol was bustling with activity as Missourians from across the state gathered for the inauguration of the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state and state treasurer. Now that all elected officials are officially sworn into their respective offices, work can begin to improve Missouri and fulfill our vision for the state's future.

On another note, last week we heard the news that U.S. Senator Kit Bond will not seek re-election for what would have been his fifth U.S. Senate term in 2010. I wish Senator Bond all the best and thank him for his 40 years of service and dedication to the people of Missouri.

In the coming weeks, I will update you on the work of your legislature. Once again, thank you for allowing me to work for you in the Missouri Senate. I am looking forward to a productive legislative session. As always, I welcome your ideas, questions and concerns about Missouri government. You may contact me at the Capitol as follows: (573) 751-2234, jack.goodman@senate.mo.gov or by writing to Senator Jack Goodman, Missouri State Capitol, Room 331-A, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

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