



WEEKLY REPORT

State Senator Gary Nodler
District 32



Room 423 - State Capitol Bldg. - Jefferson City, MO 65101 – Contact Barbara Mustoe Phone: (573) 751-2306

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Leadership in Washington Impacts Life in Missouri

Any form of government — local, state, or federal — ultimately depends on the leadership ability of the elected officials. This week, the inauguration of our country's president was held amid much enthusiasm and celebration. However, the excitement of this transition will soon ebb, and the new president will be faced with some serious and possibly unpopular decisions to make.

During his inauguration speech, the new president acknowledged the many challenges that we face as a country, and he promised to meet these challenges. I hope that he is able to address our national issues with swift and effective action.

The economy was one of the major challenges that were highlighted in the inaugural address. Much hope has been placed on the federal economic stimulus package that is brewing in Congress. Missouri, like many states, is facing a budget deficit, but it is still unclear as to how any federal money would break down for our state. We must, in the mean time, plan the current and upcoming fiscal years with the funding we know we have now, staying true to the fiscal responsibility that has dominated our state budget preparations in the past.

While our new president has yet to prove his long term leadership skills in order to accomplish the goals he has set forth, Missouri will soon be losing one of our most solid leaders. U.S. Senator Christopher S. Bond recently announced that he will not be running for reelection in 2010. Sen. Bond is a sixth generation Missourian, who was born in St. Louis and grew up in Mexico, MO. His career of service to our state included time as the Assistant Attorney General, State Auditor, and Governor of the state of

Missouri — the youngest Governor the state has ever had. In 1986, he was elected to the United States Senate for the first of four six-year terms.

During his more than 20 years of service in the U.S. Senate, Sen. Bond has protected and advanced Missouri's interests and served as a national leader. The state of Missouri owes him a debt of gratitude, and I would like to personally offer my thanks for his efforts to strengthen and serve our state. I am grateful that Sen. Bond will be there for the next two years to continue to offer steady leadership to our state and nation during these critical times.

Over the next several months, our state is sure to be affected by the many changes to be made by the federal government. I will continue to keep a close watch on the events in Washington D.C. while continuing my work to meet the most pressing needs of our state.

*Senator Gary Nodler represents the people of Newton, Jasper
and Dade counties in the Missouri Senate.*