

For Immediate Release  
January 15, 2009

# SHARING A VIEW OF THE STATE

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Issues and Comments – 33<sup>rd</sup> Senatorial District

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*Senator*

## **Chuck Purgason**

The work of the first regular session of your 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly is now underway with the completion of the swearing-in ceremony of 163 members elected to the Missouri House of Representatives, 17 members elected to the Missouri State Senate, and Governor Nixon's inaugural celebration.

As we move forward, it seems that everyone agrees that we must work together to address the difficult economic times facing our families and small businesses as well as complete the very difficult job of crafting and balancing our state budget for the 2010 fiscal year that begins July 1.

During his opening session remarks, the new President Pro-Tem of the Senate Charlie Shields presented his vision of the new session by emphasizing three strategies: job creation, more health coverage, and education past high school. Goals set for the Senate this session focus on protecting Missouri families' jobs and their take home pay.

This will be a year of agonizing choices in the formulating of our state budget. There will be a strong effort to reject any new taxes. It is expected that any increases will be rejected. As always, my focus will be on protecting our young people and our elderly --- those who are most in need of help.

Later, Governor Nixon reinforced the need for job creation in his inaugural address on the steps of our State Capitol. He addressed the current economic downturn and gave his thoughts on creating jobs that lead to energy independence, fuel-efficient automobiles, energy-efficient homes, lifesaving cures, and jobs that change the way business is done. He also put forth the need for everyone in state government to work together and for every Missourian to get involved at the local level to make our communities stronger. I fully agree with the new Governor when he stated that, "...the answers to our problems won't all come from government."

I look forward to sharing more of the details of the Governor's legislative and spending plans with you when he delivers his State of the State address to the General Assembly and to the people of Missouri later this month.

As always, I welcome your comments and opinions. You may contact me at 573-751-1882, e-mail to [chuck.purgason@senate.mo.gov](mailto:chuck.purgason@senate.mo.gov) or write to me at the Missouri Senate, State Capitol, Room 420, Jefferson City, MO 65101. If you would like to receive these reports electronically, please call my office or e-mail me with your address.

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