

*Nothing is politically right  
that is morally wrong.*



*Free and fair discussion  
is the firmest friend of truth.*

## MISSOURI SENATE JEFFERSON CITY

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### **Senate Seminars Generate Open Dialogue on Issues** ***New Concept Begins Legislative Session with Discussions on Eight Topics***

JEFFERSON CITY –Missouri senators completed a series of eight Senate Seminars this week that generated open dialogue on an array of issues that affect Missourians everyday lives. In one of Sen. Charlie Shields, R-St. Joseph, first acts as the Senate's Leader, he invited experts, leaders and citizens from across the state to speak at meetings in order for all senators to gain a foundation of knowledge on the topics and to stimulate discussions on the future of those issues.

Shields said the idea spurred from the loss of institutional knowledge among lawmakers due to term limits.

"The seminars allowed us to take advantage of the time we have before committees begin meeting to learn and refresh our minds on emerging issues," Shields said.

"Moreover, the seminars were a catalyst for open dialogue on issues that affect our everyday lives, where we could discuss many solutions, rather than being tied to the details of a specific bill. I believe our senators gained from these seminars and look forward to continuing them in the future."

The eight seminars took place over two weeks and covered the following topics: Affordable Health Coverage, Agriculture, Economic Development, Education, Energy, Higher Education, Life Sciences, and Transportation. More than thirty individuals gave presentations at the seminars including University of Missouri President Gary Forsee, Missouri State University President Mike Nietzel, St. Louis Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Kelvin Adams, and Missouri Department of Transportation Director Pete Rahn.

The seminars were open to the public. To find a full listing of presenters or to receive materials provided by the presenters, please contact Sen. Shields' office at (573)751-1562.

This week Shields also named the Senate's standing committees. Many of the committees will debate and draft legislation on the same issues discussed in the Senate Seminars.

"I believe we – Republicans and Democrats – must work together to address the emerging issues that affect our everyday lives," Shields said. "By beginning the session working together in these Senate Seminars, we have laid a strong foundation we can continue to build on together."

For a full listing of Senate committees and the senators serving on each, visit [www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

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