

*Nothing is politically right  
that is morally wrong.*



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

## MISSOURI SENATE JEFFERSON CITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Senate Takes Lead on Redistricting** ***New Select Committee Will Prepare for 2010 Census Data***

JEFFERSON CITY – In the Senate’s first step to be prepared to complete its constitutionally mandated task of Congressional redistricting following the 2010 Decennial Census, Senate Leader Charlie Shields, R-St. Joseph, today announced the creation of the Senate Select Committee on Redistricting. The committee is charged with performing all duties necessary for the General Assembly to prepare for its role in the 2010 Decennial Census.

Senator Shields said he created the committee so the Senate will be prepared to act quickly based on the census data.

“Every ten years we are tasked with the awesome responsibility of making sure that Congressional districts are drawn equally and fairly so that every vote counts,” said Sen. Shields. “That is why I believe it is important we begin preparing for this process now.”

Senator Shields named Sen. Scott T. Rupp, R-St. Charles County, as chairman and Sen. Brad Lager, R-Savannah, as vice chairman. Senator Shields said Sen. Rupp is committed to making re-districting a fair process that is completed on-time.

“Redistricting is a key component to fairness in our government, and serving as chair is a once in a lifetime opportunity to affect the political landscape in a fair and equitable manner for generations to come,” said Sen. Rupp. “It is an extreme honor to be appointed to this position. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this committee and serving our state in this capacity.”

Other senators named to the committee include: Senate Minority Leader Sen. Victor Callahan, D-Independence; Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau; Sen. David Pearce, R-Warrensburg; and Sen. Robin Wright-Jones, D-St. Louis.

In Missouri, Congressional redistricting is the responsibility of the Legislature. The task of redrawing the state’s 34 Senatorial districts and 163 House districts is assigned to two bipartisan commissions appointed by the governor.

The U.S. Census forms will be mailed to households beginning in March of 2010. Census takers will continue to collect census data from those who do not return their census forms through July. By law, the Census Bureau must deliver population data to the President of the United States in December for reapportionment. Also by law, the Census Bureau must complete delivery of redistricting data to states by March of 2011.

The Legislature must draw and approve new Congressional districts during the 2011 regular session, or face a special session, to ensure filing in February of 2012 for Congressional District candidates.

To learn more about the Select Committee on Redistricting and its members, visit [www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

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