



## 2010 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



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# SENATOR JACK GOODMAN 29<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

Addressing the Issues that Matter Most to You

Dear Friends in the 29<sup>th</sup> District,

Thank you for the opportunity to work for you in the Missouri Senate. This report was prepared to keep you informed of the progress your State Legislature made on your behalf in 2010. The General Assembly faced many important and difficult issues this year, which are detailed inside.

We worked hard to address these issues, bringing meaningful solutions that reflect Missourians' shared belief in personal responsibility, educational and employment opportunity and common-sense values. While we had several successes, we still have much work to do.

Again, I am genuinely grateful to have the privilege of working for you this year. Please contact my office any time you would like to share an idea, concern or problem. Most of the work we do in the Capitol starts with a good idea suggested by a constituent.

Respectfully,



IF YOU HAVE ANY  
LEGISLATIVE CONCERNS  
OR QUESTIONS,  
FEEL FREE TO CONTACT  
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# LEGISLATURE PASSES BALANCED, FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE BUDGET

## FY 2011 STATE BUDGET

Like most states across the nation this year, Missouri confronted a historic budget crisis with severely declining revenue, but continued demand for government programs and services. As session progressed, it became increasingly clear that unprecedented revenue shortfalls would force the Legislature to make very difficult decisions to preserve the future economic stability of our state.

The Missouri General Assembly is constitutionally mandated to pass a balanced, responsible and realistic state budget each year by a certain deadline (this year's was May 7). As a starting point for determining the state budget, legislators considered the governor's budget proposal, which he submitted to the Legislature at the beginning of this year.

Unfortunately, the budget scenario originally presented by the governor did not prove to be accurate. One problem was the governor's reliance on overly optimistic revenue projections for the remainder of the current and upcoming fiscal years. The other problem was the governor's ill-advised dependence on \$300 million in

additional, unrealized federal funds. To date, no bill guaranteeing extra money has been passed by Congress, and quite frankly, it would be the height of irresponsibility for state lawmakers to continue relying on the federal bailouts as a legitimate funding source, rather than reducing the ongoing cost of government.

Without the hypothetical \$300 million in the governor's original budget proposal, funding for state departments, programs and services was especially tight. The announcement of a 13.3 percent revenue decline further complicated the situation. For the current FY 2010, state budget officials estimate that net general revenue collections will ultimately decline to \$6.73 billion—a \$700 million decrease from FY 2009 collections.

Ultimately, the FY 2011 budget was reduced by nearly \$500 million from the budget proposal offered by the governor in January. These cuts were needed because, unlike the federal government, Missouri lawmakers are required by law to ensure that the state does not spend beyond its means. The recession has left legislators with no choice

but to reduce costs. As a lawmaker who was present for the last round of drastic budget cuts, Sen. Goodman can assure any doubters that, regardless of party, it is gut-wrenching to consider cutting programs and services that people truly rely on. These are the types of decisions that were required of lawmakers this session.

Here in Missouri, the Legislature maintained its commitment to fiscal responsibility. Although budget cuts are painful, lawmakers must never forget their duty to thoroughly examine every single taxpayer-provided dollar state government spends to determine if that expenditure is vital to Missourians. Senator Goodman feels fortunate to have so many like-minded, fiscally conservative colleagues who refuse to vote for job-killing taxes and who are willing to shoulder tough budget decisions to ensure the state's future prosperity.





# REBOOTING GOVERNMENT

The severe, worldwide economic downturn and resulting state budget crisis requires your Missouri government to do more than merely cap spending. Lawmakers must rethink how government works and make meaningful changes to improve efficiency and effectiveness with fewer resources.

While the federal government continues to print money and spend uncontrollably, Missouri is constitutionally required to spend within its means. This requires serious consideration of restructuring and streamlining government to reduce state spending. This session, the Missouri Senate worked to advance this goal through its "Rebooting Government" initiative, designed to collect and implement citizen-submitted ideas to cut costs and improve government efficiency.

The Missouri Senate devoted real time to reviewing hundreds of ideas it received from Missourians for downsizing and streamlining government. Several senators presented strategies implementing the best of the suggested solutions through legislation. Some of these ideas were eventually included in SB 1057 and SJRs 44 and 45. Unfortunately, the session concluded before any of these proposals could be finally approved and sent to the governor's desk.

In all, it was estimated that Rebooting Government recommendations could have saved Missouri taxpayers between \$690 million and \$790 million per year. Although many of the reforms encountered stiff resistance, it was a worthwhile exercise for legislators to step back and take a fresh look at old practices, and reassess whether Missouri can afford to keep doing business as usual. As further budget reductions will likely be required next year, the Legislature must continue the pursuit of strategic restructuring to enhance efficiency and ensure it is rendering the best product for the least cost to the taxpayers supporting the operation of Missouri government.



## GETTING GOVERNMENT OUT OF THE WAY

Southwest Missouri's churches, charities and philanthropic groups have a strong tradition of helping neighbors in need. So, it should come as no surprise that in some communities, conscientious citizens have given the extra effort to organize not-for-profit community health centers to provide quality health care to neighbors in need. These centers uniquely use volunteer services and donated resources, and require accountability from the individuals receiving treatment. Unfortunately, the efforts of these good people could encounter unnecessary governmental obstacles. Unless the law is clarified, the state could seek to regulate

these volunteer clinics as insurance companies, making it virtually impossible for them to operate.

Senator Goodman sponsored SB 616 to remove burdensome bureaucratic roadblocks that could prevent not-for-profit community health centers from effectively serving communities. The representative who handled this legislation in the House was extremely helpful. Unfortunately, another House member attached a highly controversial amendment to the bill, preventing its passage in the final days of session.



# EMPOWERING MOTHERS AGAINST ABUSE

This year, Sen. Goodman handled HB 2081 in the Senate, a bill that empowers pregnant women to use deadly force to protect their unborn children from attack. The bill stems from the case of a pregnant woman in Michigan who was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to prison after using deadly force to defend her unborn baby from her boyfriend who was

repeatedly punching her in the abdomen. House Bill 2081 is a proactive step to ensure that Missouri mothers have an undeniable, clearly stated legal right to protect themselves and their babies from violence.

House Bill 2081 now awaits the governor's signature before it will be enacted into law on Aug. 28, 2010.



## PROTECTING THE UNBORN

As a lawmaker, Sen. Goodman believes he has a fundamental duty to protect the most defenseless among us, particularly the unborn. This session the Legislature achieved a major victory protecting life by passing SB 793. This legislation expands the information that must be available to expectant mothers prior to performing an abortion. These extra efforts will help ensure pregnant women are fully informed about any alternatives to abortion that may help her to choose life.

Some of the provisions of the bill include:

- Requiring the doctor to present a pregnant woman seeking an abortion with various new printed materials detailing the risks of the procedure and the physiological characteristics of an unborn baby at two-week gestational increments.
- Requiring the doctor to give the woman an opportunity to view an active ultrasound of her baby and to hear its heartbeat.
- Providing the woman with information about the possibility of pain caused to the unborn baby if an abortion is being performed past 22 weeks.
- Giving her the opportunity to have anesthesia administered to the baby during the abortion.
- Requiring the doctor to discuss with her the medical assistance and counseling resources available, advise her of the father's liability for child support, and provide information about the Alternatives to Abortion Program.

All of these requirements would need to be fulfilled at least 24 hours prior to an abortion.

Abortion is rarely an easy choice. Too often, abortion is seen as "the only option." Senate Bill 793 will help ensure that women are not led to make potentially devastating decisions to abort their children as a result of being denied access to critical information about their babies and options for help after delivery.


*Senator Goodman's two sons, Jack and Will, sit together in the Senate chamber.*

## NO TAXPAYER DOLLARS FOR ABORTION

As the U.S. Congress passed its bill to take over health care, there was legitimate concern that taxpayer dollars would fund abortions through health insurance exchanges. Currently in Missouri, health insurance policies cannot cover elective abortions, except through optional riders. Senate Bill 793, passed by the Missouri General Assembly, extends this prohibition to policies offered through health insurance exchanges, such as those provided for in the federal health care bill. In addition, no health insurance exchange operating within Missouri may cover elective abortions through optional riders. The Missouri General Assembly must protect citizens and the unborn from intrusive mandates coming out of Washington, D.C., especially those that threaten life.



# A WIN FOR HEALTH CARE FREEDOM



This year Missourians watched in disbelief as the federal government created an unprecedented personal mandate for people to buy health care products and services. For the first time in American history, the decision not to buy something is potentially punishable by fines, and even imprisonment. The unadulterated arrogance of this huge federal health care takeover left state lawmakers with no choice but to act to protect the rights of Missourians.

By a solid majority, Missouri legislators approved the "Health Care Freedom Act," a measure that Sen. Goodman, along with 19 of his Senate colleagues, co-sponsored. House Bill 1764, a comprehensive insurance bill, contains a referendum that allows the issue to be put directly before the voters on the August 2010 ballot. If approved by voters, the Health Care Freedom Act will prohibit any law, federal or state, from forcing a patient, employer or health care provider to participate in any government or private health care system. Forty-two other states are emulating this legislation, evidence that the federal government has far overstepped its bounds.

The federal health care bill that the President and Congressional leaders rammed through the legislative process will grow government bureaucracy to unprecedented levels, even with the pressing need for government to downsize and reduce spending in a struggling economy. Despite far-fetched claims of deficit reduction, this trillion-dollar power grab will lead to higher taxes, mounting health care costs, and greater financial hardship for states that are already trying to cut costs because of major revenue shortfalls.

This federal health care takeover has angered many Missourians, and for good reason. The mandates, bureaucracy and new taxes contained in this bill represent a radical departure from the limited government, free-market principles the nation's Founders enshrined in the federal Constitution.

Senator Goodman is proud Missouri is standing firm to protect state citizens' right to choose their own health care. Despite claims to the contrary, HB 1764 does not prohibit participation in the federal health care plan,

nor reject it as an option altogether. Senator Goodman is eager for Missourians to have the option to decide for themselves on this issue, after their voices have been tuned out by those in power in Washington, D.C., for too long.



## PRESERVING MISSOURI'S STATE SOVEREIGNTY

Senator Goodman strongly believes that government closest to the voters works best and is most accountable. Therefore, Sen. Goodman filed SJR 34 to protect Missourians from federal proposals that exceed constitutional authority. This legislation, if approved by voters, would have allowed the governor, the General Assembly or the people of Missouri, through initiative petition, to compel the attorney general to challenge overreaching federal legislation that violates the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. There must be a mechanism to protect the people when government exceeds its legitimate powers, and Missouri must take a stand against the intrusive policies coming out of Washington.

# DEFENDING TAXPAYERS' RIGHTS

An old battle continued in the Legislature this year over taxpayers' rights. Senator Goodman was right at the heart of debate, fighting for the proper use of taxpayer dollars and standing firm against taxpayer subsidies for illegal drug use among welfare recipients.

Senator Goodman sponsored SB 615 to allow drug testing of work-eligible recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) if there is reasonable suspicion that a recipient is using drugs. If an individual tests positive for a controlled substance, he or she would be ineligible for benefits under the program for three years and would be referred to a substance abuse treatment program. Dependents of a person who tests positive for drug use would continue to receive benefits through a third-party payee. Thus, innocent family members would not be penalized, but drug users would not be able to get their hands on the money.

Of course, lawmakers want to curb illegal drug use in Missouri, but this bill is about more than the war on drugs. Taxpayers have a reasonable expectation that their hard-earned dollars should not be used to foot the bill for illegal behavior.

Many Missourians already feel as though the federal government is recklessly spending their tax dollars on bank bailouts, special

interest projects and "job creation" bills that do not actually create sustainable jobs. Sometimes it seems like government is interested in helping everyone except the taxpayer who pays bill. Here in Missouri, the Legislature must take steps to protect the taxpayers' rights. Senator Goodman believes one guarantee that should be made to Missourians is that their hard-earned tax dollars will not subsidize drug use by those on government programs.

Simple drug tests are required for many jobs across the state. It is fundamentally unfair to take money from taxpayers who must pass drug tests at their jobs, then give that money to potential drug users. Additionally, the TANF program was designed to help people transition back to work. If recipients cannot pass a simple drug test, the stated goal of getting the recipient back to work cannot be achieved and the entire program becomes a failure.

Drug testing would also help separate the people who are abusing the system from those who really need help getting back on their feet. Unfortunately, SB 615 did not receive final approval this year. However, protecting the taxpayer from reckless government spending will remain one of Sen. Goodman's highest priorities next year.



## PREVENTING LANDOWNER TAX INCREASES

This session the Missouri General Assembly took decisive action by immediately passing a resolution that rejected the Missouri State Tax Commission's December 2009 decision to increase some of the values assigned to agricultural land in the state.

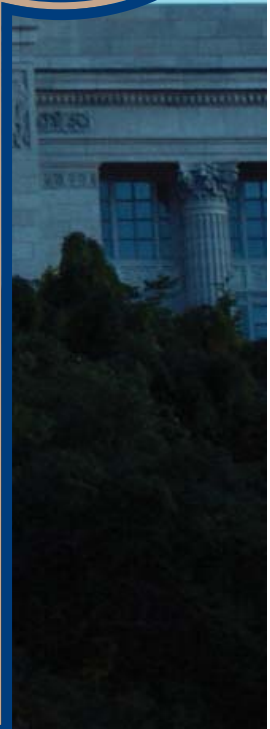
In Missouri, property is assessed at different percentages of value according to the type of property, or its use. For instance, all property that is improved by a structure and is used or intended to be used as a residence is classified as residential property. Likewise, agricultural property must be devoted primarily to raising crops, livestock, dairying and other agricultural purposes. Real property value in Missouri is assessed at the following rates:

Residential	19% of value
Agricultural	12% of value
Commercial and All Other	32% of value

According to the tax commission, land used for agricultural value purposes is based on productivity grades rather than market values. The assessor is required by law to place agricultural land in one of the eight grades for the purpose of valuing it.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 35 ensured that the tax commission's vote to increase land valuations on certain grades of farmland while decreasing land valuations on others was not enacted. The valuation changes, if they had gone into effect, would have increased taxes on farmland by 11.5 percent overall.

While property tax levies are set locally, the commission's increase in productive farmland value would have meant a huge tax increase on farmers and ranchers statewide. This would have been a catastrophic increase on farmers who are already struggling in a difficult economy. Senator Goodman was proud to vote "no" to tax increases on Missouri's farming families.





# THE SEASON OF HOPE FOOD DRIVE

During the last couple of years, a struggling economy has made it increasingly difficult for many Missouri families to put food on the table. Many families now experiencing food insecurity have in the past been those helping their own neighbors. This need becomes even more poignant during the holiday season.

In an effort to help address this need, Sen. Goodman organized the 2009 Season of Hope food drive in the 29<sup>th</sup> District to provide Christmas meals to families in need. The food drive was conceived and organized with the idea that public officials, generous citizens and private organizations don't need to rely on a government program to work together and have a real impact on addressing hunger in southwest Missouri.

Season of Hope partnered with a number of private sector hunger-relief organizations in the 29<sup>th</sup> District, which helped collect groceries, identify families in need of assistance and coordinate distribution days. Forty-two food donation boxes were placed at businesses, chambers of commerce and courthouses. After the food was collected, staff and volunteers spent an evening preparing pre-bagged meals for distribution a few days before Christmas. Families could either eat their meal at a local Season of Hope affiliate or have the meal delivered to their home. As part of Season of Hope, every family received turkey or chicken, stuffing, potatoes, vegetables and a variety of other groceries.

Approximately 2,000 people were provided with Christmas meals and more than 17,000 pounds of food was donated and distributed.

Season of Hope's success can be attributed to the dynamic work of the community leaders in every county of the district, and Sen. Goodman looks forward to working with them again on this year's Season of Hope food drive.



*Senator Goodman helps distribute food for the Season of Hope food drive.*

## PROTECTING MISSOURI FAMILIES

Strong family values are entwined in the fabric of Missouri's communities. Lawmakers hope to protect these values and pass them on to future generations by shielding families from dangerous places and behaviors that undermine the standards Missourians hold high. Unfortunately, southwest Missouri communities are seeing an increase in these dangerous places and behaviors with the growing presence of smut shops.



Senator Goodman proudly scored a victory for family values in the Missouri General Assembly this session, after a bill that he sponsored was approved and sent to the governor's desk. Senator Goodman's SB 617 was combined with SB 586, and these bills place stronger regulations on sexually oriented businesses in Missouri. Some of the provisions in the legislation include:

- Prohibiting establishment of a sexually oriented business within 1,000 feet of a pre-existing school, house of worship, state-licensed day care, public library, public park, residence or other sexually oriented business.
- Prohibiting a person who has been convicted of or imprisoned for certain crimes within the last eight years

from establishing an adult business.

- Prohibiting nude activity and restricting semi-nude activity.
- Restricting hours of operation.
- Prohibiting the use, sale or consumption of alcohol in adult businesses.

The proliferation of adult businesses throughout southwest Missouri has been very disturbing. Smut shops used to be isolated to certain districts and cities. However, in recent years their presence has extended to all types of communities and made it increasingly difficult to protect children from dangerous influences and pressures. The prevalence of these businesses along the major transportation arteries in all areas of the state makes it difficult for parents to prevent their children from being subjected to things they do not want them to see.

Worse yet, the negative secondary effects of smut shops in Missouri communities are well-documented. Their existence invites dangerous individuals with a proclivity for illegal and sexually deviant behavior into local communities and neighborhoods. In addition, property values decrease in the neighborhoods where sexually oriented businesses are present.

Senator Goodman helped craft and pass a constitutional, well-measured and responsible bill that will regulate sexually oriented businesses within the bounds of the U.S. Constitution. 7

# STATE SENATOR JACK GOODMAN

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*Senator Goodman presents a  
Senate Resolution to the McDonald  
County Junior ROTC.*

## SENATOR 29<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT JACK GOODMAN

Addressing the Issues that  
Matter Most to You

## 2010 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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Agriculture .....	(573) 751-4211
Conservation.....	(573) 751-4115
Corrections .....	(573) 751-2389
Economic Development.....	(573) 751-4962
Elementary & Secondary Education .....	(573) 751-4212
Health & Senior Services .....	(573) 751-6400
Higher Education .....	(573) 751-2361
Insurance, Financial Institutions & Professional Registration .....	(573) 751-4126
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Natural Resources .....	(800) 361-4827
Public Safety .....	(573) 751-4905
Revenue .....	(573) 751-4450
Social Services.....	(573) 751-4815
Transportation (main office).....	(888) 275-6636
Springfield Area District (serves Stone, Taney and Ozark counties) .....	(417) 895-7600
Southwest District (serves Barry, Lawrence and McDonald counties) .....	(417) 621-6500

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| • Jobs, Economic Development and<br>Local Government               | • Joint Committee on Legislative Research              | • Missouri Tourism Commission       |
|  |  | • Sentencing Advisory Commission    |

### SENATOR JACK GOODMAN'S COMMITTEES