



State Senator Scott T. Rupp ~ District 2

# The Rupp Report

*Serving Lincoln County & St. Charles County***Column For Week of: January 4, 2010**[Website](#) | [Biography](#) | [Newsroom](#)

## Hard Work and Optimism Begin 2010

This week marks the start of what is certain to be a challenging session, as the General Assembly convenes in Jefferson City at noon on January 6. Some of the issues I will be working on this session include autism insurance reform, mandatory drug tests for welfare recipients, and repealing the commercial weight zone in St. Charles County. I also intend to file additional protections for victims of identity theft legislation, among others. My new appointments as vice-chairman of the Senate Education Committee and as chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Redistricting give me the sense of optimism and hard work in 2010.

The new year also enacts a new law that affects all Missourians. New car inspections can now wait until five years after the manufacture date of the vehicle, beginning January 1. For example, if you buy a new vehicle in 2010, your first car inspection wouldn't need to take place until 2015. From then, you will only have to get your car inspected every time you renew your license plates. This new law should streamline vehicle registration by allowing for one less document to be gathered during the relicensing process.

The year 2009 was a difficult one for everyone, but I am pleased to say we have guided our state through a historic economic challenge by remaining fiscally responsible and prudent in our budgetary and legislative decisions. Despite the economic challenges, we were able to assist Missouri businesses and corporations by developing a larger set of tools for creating jobs that get Missourians back to work. We began addressing Medicaid and Medicare fraud by making more costs more transparent. In fact, more than a dozen of my own proposals succeeded in 2009 — ranging from expanding the New Markets Tax Credit Program to encourage investment in small businesses located in distressed communities (HB 191) to expanding consumer protections to require notification of security data breaches (HB 62) to expediting and increasing the efficiency of state road improvement projects through the awarding of additional design-build contracts (SB 128).

I know that there will be more difficult decisions to come in 2010, but I also know my dedication to conservative values and my common sense approach will serve the 2<sup>nd</sup> District and the state of Missouri well.

I look forward to continuing to serve your needs and priorities in Jefferson City. As always, if you have any questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by phone at (866) 271-2844.

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