

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
PO Box 62  
St. Peters, MO 63376  
Telephone (636) 294-2526



**CAPITOL OFFICE**  
State Capitol, Room 433  
Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806  
Telephone (573) 751-1141  
Fax (573) 522-3383  
tom.dempsey@senate.mo.gov

**MISSOURI SENATE**  
**Majority Caucus Whip**  
**Tom Dempsey**  
District 23

**Capitol Report – May 18, 2010**

The second session of the 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly ended at 6 p.m. last Friday (5/14). It was a very busy and challenging year in Jefferson City as state lawmakers faced historic declines in state revenues and the necessity of retooling state government to a size and scope taxpayers can afford. Despite the enormous challenges and the very difficult decisions required, the Legislature succeeded in passing a fiscally responsible \$23.3 billion budget that ensures our state can live within its means—without a tax increase.

I am particularly proud of the Senate leadership this session. We took the lead in crafting the state budget and were willing to take on the difficult and necessary task of cutting half a billion dollars from the Governor's proposed budget. And we completed the task more than a week ahead of our Constitutional deadline. Senate leadership also took the initiative to begin several steps toward rebooting and streamlining state government—with valuable input from Missouri citizens—in order to put our state in a budget situation it can maintain through this budget crisis. The state budget deficit is expected to reach \$1 billion for the 2011 Fiscal Year. Budget analysts predict the financial crisis could easily last through Fiscal Year 2014.

As one solution to the state budget crisis, I introduced legislation this year that amends various requirements for public assistance programs administered by the state. Senate Bill 1007—passed by the General Assembly on the final day of session—will improve efficiencies within the MO HealthNet system and is expected to save taxpayers more than \$24 million.

As the General Assembly examined ways to make government smaller and more efficient, we also were able to advance several priorities, including: ethics reform (SB 844), autism insurance reform (HB 1311), and the Health Care Freedom Act. I co-sponsored the Health Care Freedom Act, incorporated into HB 1764, which will allow Missouri voters to decide if they want to protect their right to choose their own health care options.

In the next Capitol Report, I will highlight other priorities, legislation I sponsored, and other major legislation passed by the General Assembly.

Also, I want to take opportunity to thank you for your calls, visits, emails, letters, and for your continued support. As I return to the District, I will continue working to serve you—the citizens of the 23<sup>rd</sup> District—and hope to see many of you throughout the coming months.