

State Senator Robert Mayer The Mayer Memo

Senator Robert Mayer - Serving Butler, Dunklin, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley, Stoddard & Wayne Counties



Column For March 19, 2010

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Extraordinary Times and Extraordinary Measures

Your General Assembly is attempting to explore all options as we work our way through a historic shortfall in state tax revenue. Unlike the federal government, Missouri's Constitution calls for a balanced state budget, and the decline in revenue means that there will be tough decisions as to where that money should be allocated in the coming days.

As difficult as this situation appears, I choose to remain optimistic about where we are headed. We will inevitably see a smaller state government, but that does not mean it will be less effective. This is an opportunity to shape Missouri state government to be leaner, smarter and more efficient.

In the interest of exhausting our options and in the aspirations of a better government, I would like to invite and encourage you to participate in a program we're calling "Rebooting Government." If you visit the Missouri Senate website at www.senate.mo.gov, you will find a portal to give your suggestions and ideas about how to best streamline state government. It's the first effort of its kind, and we hope it proves to be a more effective means for the people of Missouri to voice their opinion on the best use of their hard-earned tax dollars.

You can submit these suggestions anonymously. There is also an option to leave your address and phone number so that, as residents of the 25th Senatorial district, your suggestion can be directly routed to my office. I know everyone here in the Capitol will be taking every suggestion very seriously. In fact, on Tuesday, March 23, the Senate will break from its routine in order to examine these suggestions in committees, each comprised of four senators, in an effort to transform the best submissions into policy.

This state has pulled through hard times in the past. This is no different. Missouri, its government and its citizens will continue to be responsible, live within their means, persevere and thrive.

I look forward to your submissions and, as always, you may always contact my office at 1-877-291-5584.

Contact Information

Capitol Office
State Capitol Building
Room 422
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Website:
<http://www.senate.mo.gov/mayer>

Phone Number:
573.751.3859
Fax:
573.526.1384

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