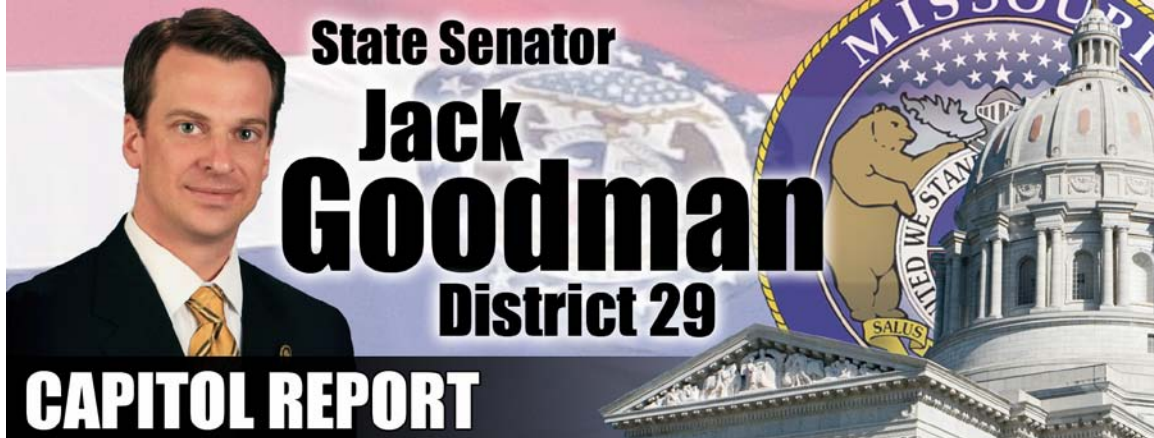


June 18, 2010



Senator Jack Goodman – Serving Barry, Lawrence, McDonald, Ozark, Stone and Taney Counties

[Website](#) | [Contact Me](#) | [Biography](#) | [Newsroom](#)

Stand Up and Be Counted

The federal government is currently conducting the U.S. Census, as required by the U.S. Constitution. The census has been performed every 10 years since 1790. The 2010 U.S. Census is important to Missourians, because census data determines reapportionment for representation at both the state and federal levels. Consequently, it is critical that Missouri's population be counted accurately to reflect our state's true population and give every Missourian an equal voice in government.

Unfortunately, Missouri is on the cusp of losing a Congressional seat. Projections indicate that our state could retain or lose a seat by counting or missing less than one percent of the population, meaning statewide participation in this year's census is crucial. If Missouri's results are inaccurately low, our voice in government could be given to others who may not share our views and values.

The U.S. Census Bureau is tracking participation rates by state, county and city via its website (<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map>). As of April 27, the cut-off date to receive mailed responses and for census takers to begin going door-to-door to follow up on non-responses, Missouri's participation rate was 73 percent compared with the national rate of 72 percent. Final rates will be posted in the fall and will include late mail returns.

Although Missouri appears to be consistent with the national participation rate, closer inspection reveals that many rural counties have a significantly lower participation rate than urban counties. Although the window of time to mail in census responses has closed, it is still imperative that we continue to inform our neighbors, so people who have yet to participate can still be counted. If not, these low participation rates in our rural communities will undoubtedly affect rural Missourians' representation in our government.

Currently, Minnesota is among the top two states for mail participation in the census. According to census projections released in December 2009, Missouri should get the 435th Congressional seat, edging out Minnesota by 10,000 inhabitants. However, if Minnesota's census count is favorable in relation to Missouri's, Minnesota could very well keep its seat in Congress while we lose one of ours. We must make every effort to ensure that this does not happen.

The 29th Senatorial District, which is a rural district, has some areas of low participation. As of April 27, the participation rates for our local counties were: Barry, 59%; Lawrence, 72%; McDonald, 60%; Ozark, 55%; Stone, 53%; and Taney, 49%. We must increase these participation rates to ensure we do not weaken our voices in our state and federal governments.

While the mailed portion of the census is now complete, Missourians still have an opportunity to participate. At this time, census takers are visiting non-responders to ask them the 10 questions from the mailed census form, which they will continue to do through July. If you have yet to respond to the census, there are two options. First, you may call the Kansas City main regional office to complete a census form over the phone at **1-866-872-6868**. You may also call the Springfield regional census center at **(417) 520-2530** to request to be placed on a list to receive a door-to-door visit from a census taker.

We are aiming for as close to 100 percent statewide participation as possible to ensure that rural, southwest Missourians are properly represented in Jefferson City and Washington, D.C. If you have not participated in the U.S. 2010 Census, I urge you to call one of the numbers above or watch for a census taker in your neighborhood. For more information about the census, you can go to www.2010.census.gov.

As always, I welcome your ideas, questions and concerns about Missouri government. You may contact me at the State Capitol as follows: (573) 751-2234, jack.goodman@senate.mo.gov or by writing to Senator Jack Goodman, Missouri State Capitol, Room 331-A, Jefferson City, MO.

Contact Information

Capitol Office
State Capitol Building
Room 331-A
Jefferson City, MO 65101

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

Phone Number:
573.751.2234 (Capitol)
417.466.3731 (District)

Fax:
573.526.9808