

Week of December 27, 2010



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

Legislative Session Begins January 5

With the 2011 legislative session beginning in less than a week, my colleagues in the Missouri General Assembly and I are gearing up for another year in the State Capitol. We convene at noon on Wednesday, Jan. 5, for what will certainly be a difficult, yet promising, legislative session.

Education will continue to be a top priority for me. With the recent release of the Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee's final report, which was the result of two years of hard work and dedication from the six-member panel, now we must work to put those ideas into action. We want to make sure that by the year 2020 all children are prepared with the necessary tools to be successful in kindergarten; that 75 percent of all Missouri's students perform at proficient levels on state standardized tests; and that 60 percent of all Missourians will possess some form of post secondary degree.

The two other Senate 2020 Committees, which dealt with job creation and the health of Missourians, will also play roles in the upcoming session. In the creation of these committees, it was the goal that the end-results would make Missouri a leader in both national and global markets.

Addressing our state's economy is still at the forefront. It's a hard road to walk, but a necessary one. Every day, it seems, conflicting reports are released about the state of our economy. We can only make decisions based on facts given to us at the time. When we assemble in Jefferson City, we will begin the complicated task of passing the 2012 budget. That budget year runs July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012 and it is tough to accurately plan our

revenue 18 months in advance. Additionally, we will be faced with the challenging task of having to trim between 300-900 million dollars from next year's budget in order to have a balanced budget. Since we can not deficit-spend the state budget, it forces us to make difficult decisions. We must also look at ways to restructure the state government. That's why the Missouri Senate is continuing its effort to "Reboot Government."

Missourians will have another opportunity to share their ideas on how to best streamline state government, whether it is through more control, alterations or deletion of certain government departments and programs. Citizens can submit their ideas through the Rebooting Government link in the Missouri Senate website (www.senate.mo.gov/RebootMO). This site will be available on the Senate website through the 2011 legislative session.

If you would like to learn more about the upcoming legislative session, or see a list of prefiled Senate bills, please visit the Senate website at www.senate.mo.gov. The newly redesigned website is full of information beneficial to all Missourians and it's easy to use.

As always, please feel free to contact me or my staff with any questions or concerns at any time. We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions and trying to answer any questions you may have. You can reach us by phone at 866-277-0882 (toll-free) or 573-751-2272, or by fax at 573-526-7381.

Senator David Pearce serves Bates, Cass, Johnson and Vernon counties in the 31st State Senatorial District.

Contact Information

Capitol Office
State Capitol Building
Room 419
Jefferson City, MO 65101

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

Phone Number:
866.277.0882 (toll-free)
573.751.2272

Fax:
573.526.7381