



# Lair's Legislative Log...



REPRESENTATIVE MIKE LAIR—DISTRICT 7

Volume III #27

July, 4 2011

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The heat and humidity that a Missouri summer is famous for has returned. Your state and federal governments are busy lending a helping hand to flood victims and we celebrated with friends and family the two hundred and thirty-fifth birthday of our great land.

On July 4, 1776, an experiment in self-government began that had most of the powerful nations in the world at that time fearful. In fact, we were known to the intellectuals of that time, well into the nineteenth century, not as the United States of America, but as the "great experiment." Our founding fathers took the philosophical writings of the great political thinkers from the previous two hundred years and added to these theories the Greek philosophy of democracy. They crafted a nation based on the premise that all men are created equal and had certain undisputable rights. Several years later, the delicate balance achieved in the Constitution between a pure democracy and a republic was and is a thing of beauty. France, our greatest ally during the Revolution, was on the verge of her own fight against the prevailing aristocracy. However, France went the way of the Greek originators of democracy into a decade long blood-bath that is best described by the hero of the movie Patriot in his speech to the South Carolina legislature by saying "I don't want to trade a tyrant three thousand miles away for three thousand tyrants one mile away."

The fundamental truth to all political discussions that we have in the General Assembly, or that you have in the coffee shop, is that we can have them without fear of our government. You can be as right wing as Rush Limbaugh, as left wing as Nancy Pelosi, or even as boring as a moderate and make your case without fear of censure. The Constitution is a living document. It can be and has been modified to fit a twenty-first century America. As stated by Dahlia Lithwick in Slate.com, "The enduring genius of the Constitution is that it is open-ended enough to infuriate all Americans almost equally."

Whatever your feelings are about the direction that this nation is going under the current administration - we will survive. We will continue to be the beacon of hope and freedom for the oppressed peoples of the world.

Over a month has now passed since the close of this year's legislative session. It has been fantastic to be back in the district more often, where I have been able to attend numerous events and meetings and see friends, family, and constituents. As the dust has now settled from the end of session, I have had the opportunity to look back at many of the bills that we passed and I am proud of what was accomplished. Among the highlights are: drug testing for welfare recipients, passing a balanced budget, no new taxes, Congressional redistricting, photo identification for voting, protecting life and the

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## Second Amendment.

Additionally, from our pre-session declaration to promote a business friendly environment in Missouri and create more jobs, we passed the 'Big Government Get Off My Back Act.' During these tough economic times, Missouri small businesses are struggling. To provide relief, the 'Big Government Get Off My Back Act' puts a moratorium on new regulations and fees and requires that any federal mandate be approved by the General Assembly before it goes into effect. The bill also provides tax deductions for those small businesses that create new full-time jobs.

The Governor still has until July 14 to either sign or veto bills and we remain hopeful that he will take the opportunity to support many of these important proposals that help our state. The requirement of photo identification for voting was vetoed by Governor Nixon, and the legislature will have an opportunity to attempt an override of his veto when we return for our veto session in mid-September.

I failed to mention two interim committees last week, the *Interim Committee on Strengthening Missouri Families* and the *Interim Committee on 911 Access*. According to the Speaker's office, The *Interim Committee on Strengthening Missouri Families* was created to look at ways to improve the family structure in the state of Missouri. With more than half of all marriages ending in divorce and Missouri's divorce rate consistently exceeding the national average, the economic and social cost to our state is

untold. The committee has been tasked with looking at innovative ways to promote the family unit and recommend policies that will help build stronger families in our state. The *Interim Committee on 911 Access* was established to find ways of increasing the accessibility of 911 emergency systems, promote structural uniformity, and look at innovative ways to fund these improvements. With many regions of the state still lacking access to 911 systems and other areas experiencing dramatic funding shortfalls, the committee will spend the interim studying this important issue and recommending policies to the legislature designed to address these challenges.

Thank you for the privilege of representing the citizens of the 7<sup>th</sup> District. Gregg and I are at your service at (573) 751-2917, or [mike.lair@house.mo.gov](mailto:mike.lair@house.mo.gov) or State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Avenue, Room 400, Jefferson City, MO 65101. My website is [www.RepMikeLair.com](http://www.RepMikeLair.com).

*Mike Lair*

