



# Lair's Legislative Log...



REPRESENTATIVE MIKE LAIR—DISTRICT 7

Volume III #35

August 29, 2011

VISIT MY  
WEB-SITE FOR  
ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION

[www.RepMikeLair.com](http://www.RepMikeLair.com)

Room 400  
State Capitol  
201 West Capitol Avenue  
Jefferson City, MO  
65101

PH: 573-751-2917

Fax: 573-566-9775

Email:

[Mike.Lair@house.mo.gov](mailto:Mike.Lair@house.mo.gov)



Keep up with the legislative process through the internet by visiting [www.house.mo.gov](http://www.house.mo.gov)

There you can view video clips, read legislation and hear the House Floor debate live.

The next month will be exceedingly packed with Special Session, Veto Session, and interim committees. North Central Missouri College has added an impressive new facility to serve our youth, and my new 7<sup>th</sup> District Directory should have been delivered to your mailbox.

The General Assembly has finally received our official call to Special Session. We will begin on Tuesday, September 6 and are slated to be in session for a minimum of seven legislative days. The original estimate may be somewhat optimistic with the opposition that I have seen building to the proposed items that I have enumerated below. You can see the Governor's proclamation on my website [www.RepMikeLair.com](http://www.RepMikeLair.com).

The legislative agenda has changed slightly from the first news reports that I reported to you. There are four parts of the job creation package: (1) enacting the Missouri Science and Innovation Act (MOSIRA) to encourage growth and job creation within those sectors; (2) enacting the Compete Missouri Initiative to provide additional incentives and benefits to attract and retain businesses, to streamline and update Missouri's training programs, and to increase the efficiencies of the state's business development incentives; (3) enacting legislation to increase exports and foreign trade through the development of an air cargo hub at Lambert-St. Louis Airport; (4) enacting legislation to help con-

struct and develop high-tech data centers.

The Governor has also asked the General Assembly to implement a comprehensive tax credit reform package that will modify or eliminate tax credits that are not producing a substantial return on our investment. This program is largely based on the November 2010 report of the Bipartisan Tax Credit Review Commission.

He also wants us to work on several other issues including a comprehensive overhaul of the Department of Revenue's collection operations and a brief "tax amnesty" program in 2012. We are to look at moving Missouri's Presidential Primary Election to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March. Again, we look at the reoccurring issue of control of the St. Louis Police Department and a tax credit to attract amateur sporting events to Missouri.

The Governor's press release has mention of the disaster relief funds necessary to help the blizzard, flood, and tornado victims, but nothing in the official declaration allows us to enact legislation for this issue. We have been besieged by citizens wanting action for disaster relief.

As you can see from the extensive list of issues, we have and will continue to be swamped with competing points of view on the majority of these topics.

**COMMITTEES:****CHAIR:**APPROPRIATIONS—  
EDUCATION,**MEMBER:**

BUDGET

RETIREMENT

RULES

JOINT COMMITTEE  
ON EDUCATION**QUICK LINKS:**HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES[www.house.mo.gov](http://www.house.mo.gov)

STATE:

[www.mo.gov](http://www.mo.gov)

SENATE:

[www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov)**SERVING:**

CALDWELL

CARROLL

LIVINGSTON

CLINTON (PART)

Not one of these topics is without a major detractor, in most cases there are several. As I wrote last week, we have seen the majority of these pieces of legislation over the past several years. The arguments for both sides are well known and in some cases even redundant.

Much of the Wednesday meeting of the Interim Budget Transparency Committee was testimony from the budget director, Linda Lubbering. She is a representative of the executive department and details and defends the Governor's budget and withhold decisions. Several committee members, of both political parties, inquired as to the constitutional power of the executive to withhold allocated funds from a budget. For example, Fiscal Year 2012 produced \$47M less than projected, but \$279M was withheld from the budget. The constitution says that budget withholds may be made to cover the actual loss of revenue during a fiscal year; thusly, the withholds seem excessive. In an editorial appearing in Saturday's Kansas City Star, the state's chief executive's actions are called, "*unwise and arrogant*." The checks and balances built into the federal system of government are in place to guarantee a balance of power between our three branches of government. The Governor seems to be usurping power from the legislative branch to the executive branch. After I wrote this paragraph, I read that Tom Schweich, Missouri State Auditor, has filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the Governor's withholdings from the FY 2012 Budget.

I was unable to attend the dedication of the Elizabeth and Author Barton

Farm Campus in Trenton last Friday, but I want to congratulate the students, faculty, and staff on a great facility. North Central Missouri College is a vibrant part of the job creation effort in our part of the state. We must have an educated and job ready work force for economic recovery to be a reality.

Any citizen that is registered to vote within the 7<sup>th</sup> District should have received an updated 2011 District Directory in the mail this week. We have a few extras if you were missed or need one for the office. Call Gregg at the number listed below and he will mail you one as long as supplies last.

Thank you for the privilege of representing the citizens of the 7<sup>th</sup> District. As always, 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.

*Mike Lair*

