



Shaping Policy...  
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## **MISSOURI BUDGET PROJECT STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO GOVERNOR NIXON'S STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS**

*Below is a statement regarding Governor Nixon's State of the State Address from Missouri Budget Project Executive Director Amy Blouin:*

"Our state is currently struggling to recover from the recent economic recession while facing significant budget shortfalls for both the current and upcoming fiscal years. During this time, the needs of Missouri families are growing, but our state has limited resources to assist them.

"While I am optimistic about many of the ideas outlined by Governor Nixon, Missouri still faces a significant challenge in funding our existing state programs and services – including education, transportation and job training. So far during the current fiscal year Governor Nixon has made nearly \$700 million in cuts from the state budget through vetoes and withholdings, and he has announced that another \$200 million will be cut soon. These budget cuts have had real consequences for Missourians – jobs have been lost, health care access has been compromised and access to educational opportunities has been diminished.

"As the state legislature now begins to consider the budget for fiscal year 2011, they must face yet another year of projected shortfalls, this time nearing at least \$500 million. This could mean even further cuts at a time when Missouri needs investment the most.

"For too long our state has relied solely on dramatic cuts to the state budget. It is time for Governor Nixon and our state legislature to instead focus on a balanced approach to our ongoing budget shortfalls. This problem is simply too large to be solved by cuts alone. We must continue to take a close look at how the state's money is spent, but we must also begin to develop solutions for ensuring our state collects enough revenue to meet the growing needs of our residents and businesses.

"Missouri's outdated revenue structure, which has not been updated since 1931, deserves a close look from our state legislature. In addition, there are opportunities to close corporate tax loopholes, eliminate outdated discounts for businesses that pay their taxes on time, and collect taxes on internet sales. These measures can help Missouri use all tools at our disposal to decrease the budget deficits, and will also help to support and grow Missouri businesses."

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*The Mission of the Missouri Budget Project is: To advance public policies that improve economic opportunities for all Missourians – particularly low and middle-income families – by providing reliable and objective research, public education and advocacy. More information is available at [www.mobudget.org](http://www.mobudget.org).*