

MISSOURI TRAVEL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

From: Dale Amick 1/15/09

The second week of the 2009 Missouri legislative session was highlighted with the swearing-in of Jay Nixon as the 55th Missouri governor.

Nixon comes to the governorship with years of experience as attorney general and state senator.

Nixon has appointed Linda Martinez, a St. Louis lawyer with extensive background in economic development, as the new director of the Department of Economic Development.

Nixon is expected to deliver his proposed budget to the legislature within the next two weeks. Following the funding formula in state statutes, the Division of Tourism could be eligible for up to three million dollars in new funding. Realistically, keeping the agency at current funding levels may be a task.

Already, over 500 bills have been filed in both houses of the legislature. Committee appointments were made this week so look for committee action to begin in earnest within two weeks.