

August 29, 2011 - The "Loop"

Greetings! I pray you are well. Tennessee is doing it right. Preparing to govern with less, all Departments that receive federal funding are to send Commissioner Emkes (Finance and Administration) a list detailing the impact of a 15 per cent cut in federal funding and a 30 per cent cut in federal funding. The Bond agencies have advised that all states will receive fewer federal monies and as a result state government is going to have to do what family's around the kitchen table are doing, living with less. State agencies are to submit their reduction plans by August 24th. When Federal lawmakers return to Washington next month, work will begin on where those reductions will come from. One thing is for sure the 1.2 trillion dollar cuts from the feds are inevitable.

Tennessee receives about 40 percent of its funding from Washington, and any major reductions in federal spending are expected to trickle down to the state. TennCare, education, transportation and economic development are among the departments that receive the most funding from the federal government.

The Tennessee General Assembly passed a responsible and balanced budget before we closed the chamber doors to come home. We cut the cost of Government and governed within our means! Washington would do well to follow our lead.

This week I am looking forward to visiting all my Senior Centers through out the 40th district communicating the facts and real scenario of the photo ID legislation that we passed. I have been having discussion with Department Heads how important it is to assist our seniors so as not to discourage them to exercise their precious right, VOTE. On the other hand we must protect that right. And our Senior's are up to the task of providing the proper Identification stating and showing you are who you say you are. This law will further help restore our ballot box.

As Labor Day weekend approaches, enjoy your family and do be safe in your travels. This Holiday tells us summer is waning with fall just around the corner. Yippee!!!!

Blessings and thank you for the honor to serve you!