

Editor's Note

With the ninth issue of the Missouri Policy Journal, the rural/urban divide is brought into focus. Driving away from the St. Louis Metropolitan Area, either taking I-55 south heading toward Cape Girardeau or I-70 west toward Kansas City, interstate highways allow many to simply take in the scenery passing by.

The first four articles in this issue bring much of what that scenery encompasses into focus. With the fifth article, Howard Wall primarily addresses the earning tax in the cities of St. Louis and Kansas City, but puts how to examine the state's employment losses into a broader perspective. As a result, state employment losses affecting both rural and urban areas can be seen from a different angle.

There is no reason for me to reiterate much of what Rik Hafer addresses in his introduction to these articles. Taken together, however, we hope that these articles will spark policy discussions regarding where to focus attention.

Admittedly, policy choices can run a gamut of proposals. The article by Low, Sanders, and White, just to point out, notes the importance of entrepreneurship and the need for technical and business expertise, particularly for rural businesses. The issue of small business failure and success in two rural counties was addressed in the first issue of the Missouri Policy Journal: Some themes run through articles spanning different issues of this journal and, we hope, policymakers might take notice of them.

Several of the articles highlight the impact of the Great Recession (2007-2009) and its impact on the American economy broadly, and more specifically on Missouri. As this issue goes to press, however, another economic catastrophe, one coupled with serious life and death issues, confronts Missouri, the nation, and the planet.

Here we are more than a decade after the Great Recession and still trying to examine its impact. Where will we be after the coronavirus pandemic has been conquered? A decade after this pandemic has ended, no doubt the repercussions of its impact will continue to be studied, making the Great Recession seem incredibly insignificant. We all hope we all get through this soon.

Joseph A. Cernik, Editor