BY STEPHANIE HALL

While Arianna Huffington and CNN used it last summer to promote a TV show, it seems that blogging to people outside your personal sphere is gaining momentum. People from Truman, Kirksville and other parts of Missouri have signed up to express their opinions and follow others’ responses. Many politicians have started using Twitter to keep the electorate informed, and even President Obama has declared himself the first in the Missouri House of Representatives to send out a Tweet.

“There, you can’t deny it. I was there,” former Missouri Rep. Sheila McClanahan said. “Actually, I was there when I was a freshman in college and I thought, ‘Well, this is kind of interesting. I’ll do this because it might be interesting, but I don’t really know what I’m going to do with it.’ But then, as I’ve continued my career, I’ve actually been able to communicate with people that are constituents or other people that are interested in what we’re doing here in the House of Representatives.”

McClanahan said she makes an effort to overlap a variety of subjects, from political to personal to just random thoughts in her personal social networking on Twitter. “I think it’s just the easiest way of getting to know me, and when people know me, know what I care about and know why I care about it, I would hope that they would get to know what I’m thinking about this week, this month, this year, whatever,” McClanahan said.

Because many politicians have started using Twitter, McClanahan said the tweets are aimed to be entertaining as well as informative. “I think that’s one of the things that has kind of been overlooked in the legislatures, is that they are not just there to legislate but they can also be a tool for learning as well. McClanahan said she tweets and even tweets about the legislating that the House Bill 5 live is, is a document that matters a lot.”

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