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The Stouffer Report: *Ballot Initiative for Veterans*

This week, we are focusing on the second of five [ballot issues](#) you will see on your November 2 ballot.

[Amendment 2](#) would add a section to the [Missouri Constitution](#) that, if approved, would fall under Article 10, Section 25. Under this ballot initiative, certain qualified Missouri veterans would be exempt from paying property taxes.

Here is what you will see on your ballot:

Official Ballot Title:

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to require that all real property used as a homestead by Missouri citizens who are former prisoners of war and have a total service-connected disability be exempt from property taxes?

The number of qualified former prisoners of war and the amount of each exemption are unknown; however, because the number who meet the qualifications is expected to be small, the cost to local governmental entities

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should be minimal. Revenue to the state blind pension fund may be reduced by \$1,200.

Fair Ballot Language:

A “yes” vote will amend the Missouri Constitution to exempt from property taxes all real property used as a homestead by any Missouri citizen who is a former prisoner of war with a total service-connected disability.

A “no” vote will not add this exemption to the Missouri Constitution.

If passed, this measure will decrease property taxes for qualified citizens.

Amendment 2 is the result of legislation passed by the Missouri General Assembly in 2009. [House Joint Resolution 15](#) was a bi-partisan effort in both the Senate and the House, and comes from a continued commitment from Missouri lawmakers to help our veterans. We owe it to these folks after they risked life and limb to keep our country free.

In the weeks to come, I will talk about the remaining three issues slated for the November ballot, which include more questions pertaining to taxation in our state. I appreciate you taking time to contact my office about these important issues and look forward to seeing you at the polls on November 2.

Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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