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The Stouffer Report: *Ballot Question Would End Double Taxation*

This week, we are taking a look at the third constitutional amendment you will see on your November ballot. This is a ballot question that points to the growing concern folks have about taxes.

[Amendment 3](#) is an attempt to prevent double taxation on homes and real estate. If voters say yes to the amendment, then Article X, Section 25 of the [Missouri Constitution](#) would prohibit government — at all levels — from taxing the sale or the transfer of a home or other property. This would include sales taxes.

Here is the wording you will see on your ballot:

Official Ballot Title:

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to prevent the state, counties, and other political subdivisions from imposing any new tax, including a sales tax, on the sale or transfer of homes or any other real estate?

It is estimated this proposal will have no costs or savings to state or local governmental entities.

Fair Ballot Language:

A **“yes”** vote will amend the Missouri Constitution to prevent the state, counties, and

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other political subdivisions from imposing any new tax, including a sales tax, on the sale or transfer of homes or any other real estate.

A “no” vote will not change the Missouri Constitution to prevent the state, counties, and other political subdivisions from imposing a new tax on the sale or transfer of homes or any other real estate.

If passed, this measure will have no impact on taxes.

Even though we are a low-tax state, it still costs more and more to live in Missouri every year. Prices on goods and services are rising, but wages are not increasing at the same level. In addition, we remain in a recession that is prolonged by policies coming from Washington, D.C. that only cause more uncertainty about our future.

A few years ago, an effort was made to take a serious look at every tax that is paid in Missouri. Now, lawmakers are talking a lot about tax credits and their cost to taxpayers. This is only a small piece of the puzzle, as federal tax rates are continuing to rise. On Jan. 1, 2011, this nation will return to 1993 tax rates, once the tax cuts that were approved in 2001 come to an end.

Many folks have already spoken their minds on Amendment 3, since it is an initiative petition, meaning enough people signed a petition to get it on the ballot. Their voices will be heard again on November 2, when we take another step toward stopping unnecessary taxes and double taxation in Missouri.

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.