



## A “Plan B” for Proposition B

Of the many surprising election results we saw in early November, none were more surprising than those for [Proposition B](#). The measure passed by a [razor-thin margin statewide](#).

In a time when most folks do not know one end of a cow from another, it is surprising that so many did their homework on the issue to understand its full implications. As a [Springfield-News Leader](#) editorial read, “the measure [was] well intentioned, but not in the state’s best interest.”

Proposition B was placed on our ballots through the efforts of a radical animal rights organization called the [Humane Society of the United States](#), or “HSUS.” This group, aided by its [commercials to raise \\$19 each month](#) from folks who love animals like the rest of us, worked to implement laws like Proposition B in other states. Typically, their end goal seems to be to regulate agriculture — including folks who raise [hogs](#), [chickens](#) and [cattle](#).

HSUS has also been successful in implementing a federal ban on horse slaughter, (noted in my [April 8, 2010 column](#)), which has left thousands

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of horses abandoned and abused because they have no monetary value.

The passage of Proposition B means additional standards for dog breeders, in addition to the [22 pages of regulations](#) from the [Missouri Department of Agriculture](#) that licensed breeders already comply with. Unfortunately, no veterinarians were consulted in creating the language behind the legislation. One example would be the mandatory temperature range for dog facilities that would ban the use of heat lamps for pups. We do not have similar laws for our state's nursing homes or schools.

In addition, deceptive ballot language continues to be a problem in our state. When language appeared on voters' ballots that read something like, "Do you like puppies? Check yes or no," it surprised me to see voters in the state so evenly split on the proposition's passage.

In our Senatorial district, most folks voted "no" on B by overwhelming margins: Carroll County, 82.9 percent; Chariton County, 84.9 percent; Cooper County, 72.1 percent; Howard County, 73.9 percent; Macon County, 83.4 percent; Ray County, 59.8 percent; and Saline County, 65.1 percent. The measure did pass in Clay County, however. The measure failed in 103 of Missouri's 114 counties. Of course, the measure passed handily in the state's two largest cities.

One option to keep this from happening again would be to require factory fundraisers like HSUS to disclose the amount of funds they actually spend to help animals. Currently, this organization spends less than half of 1 percent of the money they raise to help rescue or care for animals.

Fortunately, Proposition B can be revisited by the Legislature. Our conservative majority could choose to grandfather in current breeders, retain

penalties for those that actually abuse dogs, tweak the standards that do not work in the real world or push for a full repeal. Citizens throughout Missouri should be aware of the actions of Prop B. As your state senator, I will continue to serve the best interest of our state.

*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](mailto:bstouffer@senate.mo.gov).

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