



# SENATOR MATT BARTLE

**District 8 – Capitol Building, Room 319 Jefferson City, MO 65101**

**Column for Week of:  
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## **Curtain Closes on 2008 Election**

November 4<sup>th</sup> marked the end of a long and hard-fought election season as Missourians stood in lines, in some places, for hours, to cast their ballots. For at least the next several months we can breathe a sigh of relief as candidate advertising will no longer dominate the airways.

The 2008 election will truly be one for the history books, as nationwide voter turnout appears to be at the highest percentage in decades. Prior to the election, the Secretary of State's office predicted a 76 percent voter turnout for Missouri, with a projected 3.2 million Missourians turning out to cast their ballots. The next few days will determine the actual numbers as the results are processed, but early projections seem to indicate the forecast will be close.

Ballots were cast for individuals in local offices all the way up to the highest political office in the nation. Missourians placed votes for state executives, including their governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general and treasurer. In January, a new General Assembly will convene with several newly elected senators and representatives anxious to bring their philosophy and agendas to Jefferson City and a new chief executive will occupy the governor's mansion.

During this week's election, two constitutional amendments and three proposed state statutes were also decided by the voters.

By an overwhelming vote, Constitutional Amendment 1, proposed by the General Assembly in 2007, will establish English as the official language of all governmental meetings where policy is discussed or decided. As a supporter of this amendment when it came through the Senate, I am pleased that Missourians formally declared their desire to keep English the official language of their government.

As a steadfast opponent of state-sponsored gambling, I am disappointed by the passage of Proposition A, which will now remove the casino loss limits that have been in place since gambling was legalized in Missouri. This measure will help give existing casinos a monopoly by restricting new casinos from being built.

The two other proposed statutes, Propositions B and C, both gained overwhelming approval from Missouri voters. Proposition B will create the Missouri Quality Homecare Council and Proposition C will now require investor-owned electric utilities to generate or purchase electricity from renewable energy sources.

I want to thank each and every voting citizen for making their voice heard in this year's elections. Exercising your right to vote is an important civic duty that truly does make a difference in our state and country. For more information on any of the races or election results, visit the Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.mo.gov](http://www.sos.mo.gov).

If you have any comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by e-mail at [matt\\_bartle@senate.mo.gov](mailto:matt_bartle@senate.mo.gov) or by phone at (888) 711-9278. My web address is <http://www.senate.mo.gov/bartle>.

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