

State Senator Robert Mayer The Mayer Memo

Senator Robert Mayer - Serving Butler, Dunklin, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley, Stoddard & Wayne Counties



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Voters to Weigh Missouri Ballot Issues

JEFFERSON CITY — As the November general election draws near, I want to call your attention to a number of ballot questions you will also consider as you cast your vote for the presidential race and our own state offices.

Two legislatively-driven constitutional amendments and three initiative petitions await the decision of Missouri voters.

First, let's look at the constitutional amendments. Constitutional Amendment 1, passed by the Missouri Legislature as House Joint Resolution 7, would establish English as the official language for all government meetings where public business is discussed or decided or where public policy is formulated. This includes meetings conducted in person or by other means of communication, including conference calls, video conference, Internet chat, or Internet message board.

Constitutional Amendment 4 — the second constitutional amendment on the ballot — is called the Missouri Storm Water Control Amendment. Currently, the Legislature issues bonds or other types of debt to provide grants and loans to municipalities and water and sewer districts in certain counties and cities for storm water control. This would limit funding to public water and sewer districts, remove limitations on the amount of funds, and remove restrictions on disbursement. Loan repayments would go into a specific fund for storm water control projects.

Now, onto the propositions. Proposition A is the "Gambling Loss Limits Initiative." The measure would increase the casino gambling tax by 1 percent — to 21 percent — eliminate the current \$500 two-hour loss limit for individual gambling losses, and restrict the number of casinos.

Proposition B — the Missouri Home Care Initiative — would create the Missouri Quality Homecare Council and ensure quality home care services under the Medicaid program by recruiting, training, and stabilizing the home care workforce. It also would essentially ease

the ability of home care workers to unionize.

The last proposition is Proposition C — the Clean Energy Initiative. This citizen-initiated proposition would create a renewable electricity standard that requires utilities to gradually increase usage of renewable energy until 15 percent of energy used is renewable. The proposition also calls for energy rates not to increase by more than one percent annually.

These are the constitutional amendments and propositions that will be decided on Election Day. If you haven't done so already, I encourage you to access the official language of these measures on the Missouri Secretary of State's website at www.sos.gov. Also, if you haven't done so already, I encourage you to take a few moments to study these issues thoroughly before stepping into the voting booth on Nov. 4. Your future — and Missouri's future — depends on it.

As always, if you have 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 phone at 1-877-291-5584.

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