

State Senator Robert Mayer The Mayer Memo

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



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Missouri Voters Support Ballot Proposals

JEFFERSON CITY — With the curtain now closed on the 2008 campaign season, I want to thank each and every citizen who exercised their right and voted in our national and statewide elections. I am very pleased to be one of the victors of our state races and I am proud to once again represent you as your state senator for the 25th district.

During this week's election, two constitutional amendments and three proposed state statutes were also decided by Missouri 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, I am pleased that Missourians agreed to make English the official language of their state government.

Also on the ballot this year was Constitutional Amendment 4, which related to the financing of storm water control projects in our state. Before the passage of this amendment sewer and water districts in first class counties and the city of St. Louis could receive grants and loans through the Department of Natural Resources for storm water projects. With the approval of 58 percent of Missouri voters, this constitutional amendment limits the eligibility to "public" sewer and water districts.

Proposition A, which removes the casino loss limits, raises the percentage that goes to schools, and restricts new casinos from being built was also passed. Education is a top priority of mine and even though I did not agree with every aspect of this proposition, I am hopeful that its passage will bring more money to Missouri schools.

Propositions B and C 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 a portion of electricity from renewable energy sources.

For more information on any of the races or election results, visit the Secretary of State's website (www.sos.mo.gov).

Veterans Day is Nov. 11 and I hope you'll take the opportunity to thank our veterans for their selfless service to our country. The price of freedom is high, and we can't forget those who were willing to pay for it. While we can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to the hundreds of thousands of American service members who died in battle or were wounded, we can pay tribute and say thanks to the more than 25 million veterans still living today.

A lot of area residents are interested in proposed changes in hunting rules from the Missouri Department of Conservation. Until now, landowners who had five acres or more qualified for no-cost deer and turkey permits. The Conservation Commission wants to increase the acreage from five to 80 or more contiguous acres in order for landowners to qualify for no-cost deer and turkey permits. Landowners with five acres or more would still qualify for no-cost small game hunting and fishing privileges. Folks who lease land would no longer qualify for no-cost permits or privileges under the proposed rule changes.

The Conservation Commission also plans to increase the cost of most resident hunting and fishing permits from two to three dollars.

The Conservation Department is opening a 30-day public comment period on the proposed rule changes on November 17, however you can begin submitting comments now by emailing Tim Smith at Tim.Smith@mdc.mo.gov or by sending a letter to the Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102.

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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