



Senator Jason Crowell – Serving Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

[Website](#) | [Contact Me](#) | [Biography](#) | [Newsroom](#)

Cast Your Vote on the Issues

Part 1: Constitutional Amendments

On November 4th, we will cast our vote in the general election. On this day, we will decide the future of our country. While much of the campaigning is focused on the people running for office, we will also be asked about five issues on the first Tuesday in November. There are two constitutional amendments: Constitutional Amendment 1, which makes English the official language of our state and Constitutional Amendment 4, which changes the way storm water control projects are financed. There are three propositions on the ballot: Proposition A deals with restrictions on casinos, Proposition B changes home healthcare, and Proposition C addresses renewable energy sources. Over the next several weeks, I will be reviewing these issues and providing information about them.

ENGLISH AS OUR STATE'S OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Appearing on the ballot is Constitutional Amendment 1. Amendment 1, which I support, establishes English as the official language of Missouri.

In some states, communities that have large populations of non-English speakers

have begun conducting official meetings in languages other than English. This amendment would keep this from happening in Missouri. There is currently no law or constitutional provision that expressly requires English be used in official proceedings, which means any language can be used in official proceedings, such as debate on the senate floor and school board or city council meetings.

If the amendment receives approval on November 4th, it will prevent a problem before it begins. The law does not prohibit translators in applicable situations such as court proceedings. The amendment would, however, require local and state governments to communicate in English and use English as the language of record so that all Missourians will be able to understand official proceedings in the state. The proposal would not have an impact on taxes in our state or cost taxpayers any money.

STORM WATER CONTROL PROJECT

Also on the ballot is Constitutional Amendment 4, which relates to the financing of storm water control projects. This amendment, which was proposed by the legislature, would expand projects that could be covered by bonds the state sells to raise funds for storm water projects across the state. In 1998, voters approved an amendment giving the Legislature power to sell bonds for storm water projects. The \$250 million in bonds was to be used by the Natural Resources Department to help with these local projects, but a change in federal tax laws has kept the sale from moving forward. The last bond sold was in 2002, leaving \$150 million unused.

The proposal also eliminates current provision on the amount of grant funding that can apply towards a project; the current breakdown for projects is 50 percent state-funded and 50 percent paid for by local governments or water and sewer districts. The amendment would have no impact on taxes. It is estimated the cost to state governmental entities would be up to \$236,000 annually. However, the state will save approximately \$7,500 for each bond issuance—bonds that they otherwise have been unable to issue.

The decisions we make by voting will have a serious impact on the future of our nation and our state. I encourage you to take the time to review the issues. For more information on voting, visit the Secretary of State's new Vote Missouri website at

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/>.

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at <http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.

Contact Information

Capitol Office
State Capitol Building
Room 323
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Website:
<http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>

Phone Number:
573.751.2459
Fax:
573.522.9289