



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

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Cast Your Vote on the Issues Part 2: Proposition A - Casinos

On November 4th, we will decide the future of our country. In addition to choosing the candidates running for office, we will be voting on five issues. Last week, I outlined the two constitutional amendments that are going to be on the ballot on November 4th. Constitutional Amendment 1 would make English the official language of our state and Constitutional Amendment 4 would change the way storm water control projects are financed.

This week we will look at Proposition A - Casinos. Next week we will look into Propositions B and C. A proposition is placed on the ballot by a group of Missourians who utilize their right to create an initiative petition. There are a total of three propositions on the ballot this November 4th: Proposition A deals with casinos, Proposition B changes home healthcare, and Proposition C addresses renewable energy sources.

Proposition A seeks to make changes to gaming policy in Missouri. Gaming in our state has undergone many changes. On November 3, 1992, voters in our state approved a measure allowing riverboat gambling in our state. This initial measure included a \$500 maximum loss limit per person per excursion. Since that time, there have been many attempts to change the statutes controlling gaming on our state. Some have been successful, while others have failed.

Proposition A would remove the \$500 loss limit. The proposition would also prevent the Missouri Gaming Commission from implementing any similar rule regarding limits on wagers, losses, or buy-in amounts. The measure also controls the amount of casinos allowed in our state by limiting the number of licenses to operate a gambling boat issued by the commission to those currently in existence. This means no new boats could be built after the effective date of the petition unless another casino closes. Finally, the petition also increases the taxes on gaming from 20 percent to 21 percent.

The initiative specifically states that any revenue increases created by the loss limit repeal would go into a newly created fund called the “Schools First Elementary and Secondary Education Improvement Fund”. This fund would be used to increase funding for elementary and secondary schools.

The proposal is estimated to create an increase of between \$105 million-\$130 million to go towards elementary and secondary education and between \$5 million-\$7 million for higher education, early childhood development, veterans, and other programs. Local governments could receive between \$18 million-\$19 million from increased taxes and fees.

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>.

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