



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

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Cast Your Vote on the Issues

Part 3: Propositions B and C

November 4th — the day we will cast our vote in the general election— is quickly approaching. In addition to the officials on the ballot, we will be asked about five issues on the first Tuesday in November. Last week, I discussed Proposition A, which deals with restrictions on casinos. The week before, I outlined the two constitutional amendments on the ballot: 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. This week, I want to provide you with information on Propositions B and C.

Proposition B — the Missouri Home Care Initiative — would create the Missouri Quality Homecare Council. It also would essentially ease the ability of home care workers to unionize. At first glance, Proposition B seems like it would be a positive measure for Missouri, but I want you to

make sure you have all the facts on the initiative before casting your vote.

Supporters of the measure are presenting Proposition B as a way for elderly and disabled individuals to stay in their homes. However, the initiative does not actually address any statute dealing with independent living for the elderly and disabled. Instead, the new law would establish the Quality Home Care Council, which could then establish the “terms and conditions of employment” for personal-care workers providing services under the Missouri’s state-sponsored healthcare program.

One of the most concerning parts of the issue is that the measure creates a new state agency with little or no oversight on how it spends taxpayer dollars. The only statutes and standards the agency would need to follow are those that are created by Proposition B. The new agency also would have the ability to create a list of “approved” workers to provide personal care. These referrals do not have any oversight and could be subject to favoritism, especially since those who are not on the list have no way of appealing their placement.

Another problematic issue within the initiative is that it gives personal-care workers the ability to join a labor union and engage in collective bargaining for higher state-funded wages. This takes negotiations that should be between the employee and employer, and complicates them with a third party. The result is that, while the three parties are busy negotiating, Missouri’s seniors are struggling without quality care.

The third proposition on the ballot is Proposition C — the Clean Energy Initiative. The initiative would require investor-owned electric utilities to generate or purchase electricity from renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, biomass (including ethanol) and hydropower. The

required renewable energy sources would have to equal 2 percent of retail sales by 2011, 5 percent of retail sales by 2014, 10 percent of retail sales by 2018, and 15 percent of retail sales by 2021. The proposition also calls for energy rates not to increase by more than 1 percent annually. This measure would not have an impact on taxes.

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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