

Delbert Scott 28th Senate District

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A Weekly Column for the Week of Sept. 22, 2008

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Deadline Quickly Approaching For Voter Registration

The power and the privilege to vote is one of the constitutional rights given to citizens of the United States. Tens of thousands of Missourians will cast their vote in this year's general election on Nov. 4. This general election allows citizens across the state to vote for officials from all political statures — from local candidates in their area all the way to the highest political office in the United States.

Not only will voters see candidates on their ballots — including those running for the president of the United States, governor of Missouri, and other state and local officials — they will also see two constitutional amendments and three proposed state statutes.

Constitutional Amendment 1, which was proposed by the General Assembly in 2007, establishes English as the official language of all governmental meetings where policy is discussed or decided. Also on the ballot this year, Constitutional Amendment 4, which relates to the financing of stormwater control projects in our state. If passed, neither amendment would have an impact on taxes.

The first proposed statutory change on the ballot, Proposition A, seeks to remove the \$500 loss limit for gamblers in a preset time period. Proposition B creates the Missouri Quality Homecare Council to recruit, train, and stabilize the home care workforce. This council would help the elderly and Missourians with disabilities continue to live independently in their homes. Finally, Proposition C requires utility companies to use an increased amount of renewable energy with sources such as solar, wind, biomass, and hydropower equaling at least 15 percent of all retail sales by 2021.

For more information on the candidates and issues that will appear on your ballot, visit the Missouri Secretary of State's website (www.sos.mo.gov). This site will also give you detailed voting instructions, show you what forms of voter identification are acceptable, inform you about specific types of voting equipment, and list some election facts as well as frequently asked questions.

The last day to register to vote is Oct. 8. You can complete your voter registration at several locations, including public schools, libraries, city halls, and any state drivers license office (DMV). You can also register to vote at the following Election Authority offices in our district:

Barton — Barton County Clerk's Office, 1004 Gulf Rm. 102 Lamar, MO 64759 Phone: (417) 682-3529 FAX: (417) 682-4100 Benton — Benton County Clerk's Office, 316 Van Buren Phone: (660) 438-7326 Warsaw, MO 65355 FAX: (660) 438-3275 Cedar County Clerk's Office, 113 South St. Cedar — Stockton, MO 65785 Phone: (417) 276-6700 X-221 FAX: (417) 276-3461 Dallas — Dallas County Clerk's Office, 102 S. Cedar Buffalo, MO 65622 Phone: (417) 345-2632 FAX: (417) 345-5321 Henry County Clerk's Office, 100 W. Franklin Henry — Clinton, MO 64735 Phone: (660) 885-7204 FAX: (660) 890-2963 Hickory — Hickory County Clerk's Office, Spring & Dallas Hermitage, MO 65668 Phone: (417) 745-6450 FAX: (417) 745-6057 Pettis County Clerk's Office, 415 S. Ohio Pettis — Sedalia, MO 65301 Phone: (660) 826-5000 X-918 FAX: (660) 829-0717 Polk County Clerk's Office, 102 E. Broadway, Rm. 11 Polk — Bolivar, MO 65613 Phone: (417) 326-4031 FAX: (417) 326-3525 St. Clair — St. Clair County Clerk's Office, 655 Second St. Osceola, MO 64776 Phone: (417) 646-2315 FAX: (417) 646-8080

Voter registration applications are also available online at www.sos.mo.gov. You must be at least 18 years of age, a U.S. citizen, and a Missouri resident to be eligible to vote.

It is important that all citizens eligible to vote on that first Tuesday in November exercise their right and civic duty. For more information on how to register to vote, visit the <u>Secretary of State's website</u>. And if you have questions or comments about any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: <u>delbertscott@senate.mo.gov</u>.

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.

