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28<sup>th</sup> Senate District

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**A Weekly Column for the  
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## The Election Results Are In

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The 2008 campaign season is over. No more television and radio campaign commercials, gone are the mailers instructing us on how to vote on a particular issue, and say goodbye to all those campaign signs that dot the highways and stand in our yards.

Candidates from the local level all the way to the White House have been elected to serve the citizens of this state and our country. Missourians came out in record numbers to also cast their vote on two constitutional amendments and three proposed state statutes.

Voters approved Constitutional Amendment 1, which was proposed by the General Assembly in 2007. The provision, passed with a vote of 86 percent, establishes that English will be 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. 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 Missouri voters (58 percent), this constitutional amendment limits the eligibility for sewer and water districts to only those considered “public.”

The first proposed statutory change on the ballot, Proposition A, sought to make changes to gaming policy in Missouri. By receiving 56 percent of the vote, the proposition will remove the \$500 loss limit for gamblers in a preset time period; prevent the Missouri Gaming Commission from implementing any similar rule regarding limits on wagers, losses, or buy-in amounts; increase the taxes on gaming from 20 to 21 percent; and control the amount of casinos allowed in our state — meaning no new boats will be built after the effective date of the petition unless another casino closes. The initiative specifically states that any revenue increases created by the loss limit repeal will go into a newly created fund called the “Schools First Elementary and Secondary Education Improvement Fund,” which will be used to increase funding for elementary and secondary schools.

Missouri voters passed Proposition B by 75 percent. Also known as the Missouri Home Care Initiative, the proposition will create the Missouri Quality Homecare Council, which is designed to recruit, train, and stabilize the personal care attendant workforce.

The third proposition on the ballot was Proposition C — the Clean Energy Initiative. With the proposition's passage (66 percent), investor-owned electric utilities are required to generate or purchase electricity from renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, hydropower, and biomass (including ethanol). The required renewable energy sources will 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.

I want to thank each and every citizen for making their voice heard in this year's elections. It was important for those Missourians who were registered to vote to get out and exercise their right and civic duty. For more information on any of the races or election results, visit the Secretary of State's website ([www.sos.mo.gov](http://www.sos.mo.gov)). And if you have questions or comments about any other issues, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: [delbertscott@senate.mo.gov](mailto:delbertscott@senate.mo.gov).

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

