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Senator Eric Schmitt Pre-Files Resolution To Promote Accountability to Taxpayers

SJR 5 Would Require St. Louis County Assessor to be Elected

JEFFERSON CITY — Following up on his pledge to fundamentally reform a property tax system that is flawed and out of touch, State Senator Eric Schmitt, R-Glendale, recently filed [Senate Joint Resolution 5](#), a constitutional amendment that, if approved by voters, would require the assessor in St. Louis County to be elected, rather than appointed.

“St. Louis County officials have made recent comments that assessed values are expected to remain close to the same as years’ past, even as the housing market continues to struggle,” Sen. Schmitt said. “Making sure the voters have a say in who holds the office of assessor in St. Louis County and ensuring that property tax bills reflect changes in the market is an issue of fundamental fairness and accountability.”

Specifically, SJR 5 would allow voters to decide on a measure requiring the assessors in charter counties and the City of St. Louis to be elected officials. This would create a consistent process so that all assessors in the state, including those in St. Louis and Jackson counties, are elected.

In 2007, St. Louis County’s reassessment values increased 22 percent on average. The Legislature passed a measure in 2008 to close a loophole in property tax law that allowed taxing jurisdictions operating below their tax rate ceiling to approve back door tax increases with no legal recourse. Sen. Schmitt’s legislation continues this work, promoting fairness and accountability in the property tax process.

“This issue affects homeowners throughout St. Louis County, especially during tough economic times when many are struggling to afford necessities such as medication and housing,” said Sen. Schmitt. “I will continue looking at additional ways to ensure the assessment process throughout Missouri is more open and transparent.”

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