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Resolution To Promote Accountability to Taxpayers Receives Senate Approval

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

JEFFERSON CITY — Senator Eric Schmitt, R-Glendale, worked to pass a measure this week that would increase accountability in property taxation for the St. Louis area. [Senate Joint Resolution 5](#) is a constitutional amendment that, if approved by voters, would require the assessor in St. Louis County to be elected, rather than appointed.

“Making sure the voters have a say in who holds the important 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,” said Sen. Schmitt, the bill’s sponsor. “An assessor’s responsibility is to fairly and accurately reflect local property values, and this legislation ensures more accountability and transparency for the taxpayers.”

Specifically, SJR 5 would allow voters to decide on a measure requiring the assessors in charter counties (excluding Jackson County) to be elected officials. Assessors are elected in all other counties in the state.

“This is the first step in addressing equity in property tax assessments across the state in a fair way and leveling the playing field for homeowners in St. Louis County,” said Sen. Jim Lembke, R-St. Louis, who co-sponsored SJR 5. “This works for more than 100 counties across the state, and I believe the voters in our area deserve the right to decide if it will work for them.”

Senate Joint Resolution 5 now moves to the House.

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