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For Immediate Release:
May 5, 2009

Sen. Eric Schmitt Successfully Fulfills Pledge to Reform Property Assessments

Senate Joint Resolution 5 Expected on November 2010 Ballot

JEFFERSON CITY —Fulfilling his promise to fundamentally reform the property assessment process in St. Louis County, Senator Eric Schmitt, R-Glendale, today (5/5) announced the passage of [Senate Joint Resolution 5](#). The constitutional amendment, if approved by voters, would require the assessor in St. Louis County to be elected, rather than appointed.

“Having an elected assessor attacks the problem of unfair assessments on the front end, ensuring the assessment process is more open, transparent and fair,” said Sen. Schmitt. “The assessor’s job should only be to fairly assess property and for those values to fairly reflect market conditions. The status quo is unacceptable. We need an independent office accountable to voters.”

Specifically, SJR 5 would allow voters to decide on a measure requiring the St. Louis County assessor to be elected. Assessors are elected in more than 100 other counties in the state, including St. Charles County. A recent study by the University of Missouri-St. Louis Public Policy Research Center and State Tax Commission pointed out that St. Charles County has the highest assessment accuracy in the state.

“Homeowners in St. Louis County deserve this opportunity to decide if the process that works for more than 100 counties across the state will work for them,” said Sen. Jim Lembke, R-St. Louis, the bill’s cosponsor. “I believe they will agree that homeowners will benefit from the accountability inherent in an elected position.”

Senate Joint Resolution 5 would go into effect if the majority of voters approve the measure, which is expected to appear on the November 2010 ballot.

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