



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

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For Immediate Release:
Sept. 8, 2010

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STATEMENT:
Senator Wright-Jones Comments on Upcoming
November Ballot Initiative

“Voters will soon get the opportunity to head to the polls in November to consider several propositions and choose who should represent them on both the national, state, and local level. One particular issue that I would like to address is Proposition A, a ballot initiative that has the possibility of eliminating certain city earnings taxes.

More specifically, this ballot issue would amend Missouri’s law to ‘repeal the authority of certain cities to use earnings taxes to fund their budgets; require voters in cities that currently have an earnings tax to approve continuation of the tax at the next general municipal election and at an election held every five years thereafter; require any current earnings tax that is not approved by the voters to be phased out over a period of 10 years; and prohibit any city from adding a new earnings tax to fund their budget.’

This proposal could eliminate certain city earnings taxes, including the City of St. Louis, which reported earnings tax revenue of \$141.2 million in 2010. If passed, this measure will impact taxes by removing certain cities’ abilities to fund their budgets through earnings taxes. The only exception is that voters in cities that currently have an earnings tax, such as the City of St. Louis, may vote to continue such taxes.

Nowhere in the ballot initiative does it mention a specific plan to replace these cities’ earnings taxes. The loss of the tax would destabilize the largest producer of state revenue, the City of St. Louis — the economic hub of our region. In this economic climate, is that really the right thing to do? It seems that we are running fast to re-arrange the deck chairs on a ship called Missouri. I am opposed to Prop A and will work for its defeat.”

- Senator Robin Wright-Jones
5th Senatorial District

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