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MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

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Senator Eric Schmitt's Initiative to Protect Missouri Taxpayers Passes Senate

Ensures Voters Have a Say on Major Local Issues

JEFFERSON CITY – As a part of his ongoing effort to protect taxpayers in the state, Senator Eric Schmitt, R-Glendale, today announced that [Senate Bill 851](#), a bill he sponsored, has received Senate approval. The bill would require additional notice to the public before local governments would be able to vote on tax increases, eminent domain, or certain districts and projects receiving public funding.

Currently, the law requires local governing bodies to only give 24-hour notice before voting on issues including eminent domain or tax increases. Senate Bill 851 would require at least four days notice before an entity can vote on an issue regarding a tax increase, eminent domain, certain types of improvement or development districts, or tax increment financing. Each public meeting would have to include time for public comment.

The bill passed the Senate on March 22 with bipartisan support with a unanimous 34-0 vote. A total of 26 senators from both parties signed on as cosponsors of the legislation.

“Current law does not allow for adequate notice to taxpayers on these major issues, and this legislation is designed to make sure the public has enough information on what their government is planning to do when they are seeking to raise our taxes or take our homes,” said Sen. Schmitt. “It also allows for true, fair, and open discussion before a vote is made on these important issues that come before our local governments.”

Senator Schmitt's bill now moves to the House for similar consideration.

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