

Week of October 18, 2010



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2010 Election Issues

Missouri's general election will be held on November 2. Every election is different and carries with it its own concerns and issues. Fortunately, there is a simple way to find out information on issues appearing on the ballot. The Missouri Secretary of State's website (www.sos.mo.gov/elections) provides a wealth of resources. This week, I'd like to describe the three constitutional amendments that are on the ballot. Next week, we will discuss the two propositions more in depth. These are the three constitutional amendments you will be voting on this year:

Constitutional Amendment 1

This constitutional amendment, if approved by voters, would require the assessors in charter counties, except Jackson County, to be elected officials. The proposal will affect St. Louis County and any county that subsequently adopts a charter form of government. It will not have an effect on Johnson, Bates, Cass or Vernon counties.

Constitutional Amendment 2

Upon voter approval, this proposed constitutional amendment exempts all real property, used as a homestead by former prisoners of war with a total service-connected disability, from property tax.

In fiscal terms, this amendment will decrease taxes for qualified people only, both in the 31st District and across the state.

Constitutional Amendments 1 and 2 were put on the ballot by legislative action during the

2009 legislative session. Amendment 3 is a result of an initiative petition.

Constitutional Amendment 3

Upon voter approval, this proposed constitutional amendment would prohibit the state, counties, and any other political subdivision from imposing a new tax, including a sales tax, upon the sale or transfer of real estate.

This practice is not currently in place in Missouri and, if passed, will not have an effect on current taxes.

Citizens should be aware that these amendments and the propositions we will discuss next week require only a simple majority to pass. The proposed constitutional amendments might sound like they don't apply to you, but the truth is that any and all changes to our state's constitution are important. That's why it is imperative to vote, to make your voice heard so that you have a say in how our state addresses these and other concerns.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office with your questions or concerns at any time. We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions and trying to answer any questions you may have. You can reach us by phone at 866-277-0882 (toll-free) or 573-751-2272, or by fax at 573-526-7381.

Senator David Pearce serves Bates, Cass, Johnson and Vernon counties in the 31st State Senatorial District.

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