

Week of October 25, 2010



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2010 Election Issues

Missouri's general election will be held on November 2. Because each election is different and presents its own set of issues, the Missouri Secretary of State's website (www.sos.mo.gov/elections) can provide a wealth of information on state elections. Last week, I described the three constitutional amendments that will appear on the ballot. This week, I'd like to discuss the two propositions on the ballot.

Proposition A

If approved, Proposition A will amend Missouri law to repeal the authority of certain cities to use earnings taxes to fund their budgets. The amendment further requires voters in cities that currently have an earnings tax, St. Louis and Kansas City, to approve continuation of such tax at the next general municipal election and at an election held every five years or to phase out the tax over a period of 10 years.

If passed, this measure will also remove the ability of other cities to fund their budgets through earnings taxes.

If defeated, it will not change the current Missouri law regarding earnings taxes.

Proposition B

If approved, Proposition B will amend Missouri law to require large-scale dog breeding operations to provide each dog under their care with sufficient food, clean water, housing and space; necessary veterinary care; regular exercise; and adequate rest between breeding cycles. The amendment further prohibits any breeder from

having more than 50 breeding dogs for the purpose of selling their puppies as pets. The amendment also creates a misdemeanor crime of “puppy mill cruelty” for any violations.

If defeated, it will not change the current Missouri law regarding dog breeders.

Both of these propositions were results of initiative petitions. Initiative petitions are citizen-generated ballot questions which, if passed, will have the force of law, as if the Legislature passed them. In order to get an initiative petition on the ballot, a large number of citizen signatures are required, hence why it is called a petition.

The amendments and propositions on the November ballot require only a simple majority to pass. This upcoming election is an opportunity to make your voice heard, to become a part of the process of lawmaking in the state of Missouri. If you aren’t involved in how our state addresses concerns such as these, then how will your lawmakers know how you want to handle future 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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