

2018 SPRING NEWSLETTER



State Senator **JASON HOLSMAN** District 7

Dear Constituents,

Serving as your state senator is a great honor, and I'm proud to represent our diverse community. It's been a busy few months in Jefferson City, and I wanted to take a moment to update you on efforts underway to fund our schools, balance the budget, and bring more jobs to our state by modernizing our infrastructure.

This newsletter is a recap of some of the important issues we have been working on during the first half of the Second Regular Session of the 99th General Assembly.

As always, I welcome your input and feedback on legislation and if you're ever at the Missouri State Capitol, feel free to stop by. I look forward to hearing from you as we continue

to keep Kansas City a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Sincerely,

Jason R. Holsman
7th Senatorial District

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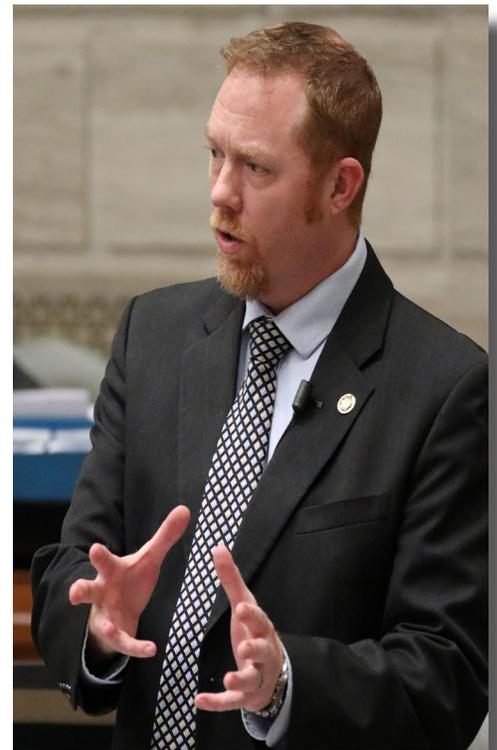


JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND AWARENESS

From tornadoes, to flooding, to devastating drought – Missouri is no stranger to natural disasters. That’s why I sponsored [Senate Bill 586](#) to create the Joint Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Awareness.

This committee would ensure that state and local governments are taking a proactive approach to disaster preparedness. Waiting to respond to disasters is an expensive, potentially life-threatening policy and we must take steps today to better understand tomorrow’s threats. This committee, with the help of experts and stakeholders from across the state, will help develop solutions and preparedness plans that public safety agencies can put in place now, before disaster strikes.

Besides familiar events like earthquakes and floods, the committee would also look into food, cyber and energy security, concerns which traditionally aren’t thought of as disaster-related. The recent disaster in Puerto Rico serves as an example as to how essential electricity and a community’s ability to feed itself is in the wake of devastation. Ultimately, the committee would produce biannual reports that can serve as a resource for those preparing for the future not only in this state, but other states as well. Senate Bill 586 was approved by the Missouri Senate early at the start of session with bipartisan support and is now being considered by the House of Representatives.



BUDGET PROCESS

Each year, House and Senate members hear from the various state departments on their funding needs for the upcoming year. In both the House and the Senate, lawmakers then determine what dollars are available to address these needs. In the coming weeks, the Legislature will continue to work through the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

As a State Senator who serves on the Budget Committee, I take my responsibility seriously to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used as efficiently and effectively as possible. I want to make sure that the taxpayers and businesses in the Kansas City area, a major economic engine for our state, are represented fairly during the budget process. This includes working to make sure our public schools are funded, our colleges and universities are supported and our most vulnerable citizens are protected. Now, perhaps more than ever, the quality of a child’s education can play a big role in their ability to get a good job later in life. That’s why I’ve made it a priority to protect and invest in Missouri’s public schools, as well as our colleges and universities.

This year began with the governor proposing a \$68 million cut to higher education. Currently, these cuts have been restored in the early legislative budget drafts, and I will do everything I can to prevent the governor’s proposed cuts to our colleges and universities.

So far this session, the Missouri House of Representatives has approved their version of the State’s budget and has sent it over to the Missouri Senate. The Senate’s Appropriations Committee has begun to analyze the House’s plan.

BALLOT INITIATIVES & PETITIONS

Missouri is one of 26 states that gives its citizens the ability to create laws through the initiative petition or referendum process. This means rather than going through the Missouri General Assembly to get a proposal signed into law or to amend the state constitution, Missouri voters can bring a measure up for a vote of the people.

Before a measure can appear on the ballot, the proposal is first submitted to the Missouri Secretary of State, who prepares the summary language and approves the measure for circulation. Supporters then start collecting signatures in support of the measure from registered voters in order for it to appear on the next general election ballot.

This election cycle, a record 300 plus initiative petitions were submitted to the Secretary of State. Below are just three of the initiatives that you may see on a ballot in November. For more information, I encourage you to visit the Secretary of State's [website](#).

Right to Work:

[Proposition A](#) seeks to repeal so-called "Right to Work" legislation approved by the Missouri General Assembly and signed into law in 2017. The legislation, [Senate Bill 19](#), prohibits union membership as a condition of employment, prohibits the collection of union dues without worker consent and codifies criminal penalties for those who violate this law. Proposition A, submitted with over 310,000 signatures, allows voters to decide whether or not "Right to Work" is right for Missouri.

Voting "yes" on Prop A would maintain "Right to Work" in the state while voting "no" would overturn the law. Proposition A is currently slated to appear on the November 6 ballot for the General Election.

Clean Missouri:

This [initiative](#), commonly referred to as Clean Missouri, modifies Missouri's campaign finance and ethics laws in the following ways:

- Prohibits lawmakers and staff from being employed as lobbyists for 2 years following the end of their term.
- Prohibits members of the General Assembly from accepting lobbyist gifts worth more than \$5.
- Places new caps on an individual's donations to state legislature candidates (\$2,500 for Missouri Senate candidates; \$2,000 for Missouri House candidates).
- Places the legislative redistricting process into the hands of a nonpartisan state demographer and a citizens' committee.

Medical Marijuana:

Another initiative petition that may appear on the ballot is [constitutional amendment 2018-051](#), which would allow for medical marijuana. This measure would permit medical marijuana to be dispensed to qualifying patients suffering from illnesses such as epilepsy, diagnosed psychiatric disorders or terminal illness.

If approved, medical marijuana would be regulated by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. Taxes generated from the measure, set at a four percent sales tax, would be divided equally between the state's General Revenue Fund and a newly-created Missouri Veterans' Health and Care Fund dedicated to the health and care of military veterans.



Primary Election:

Aug. 7, 2018

Deadline to Register:

July 11, 2018

General Election:

Nov. 6, 2018

Deadline to Register:

Oct. 10, 2018

UTILITY REFORM

AFFORDABLE, CLEAN ENERGY MISSOURIANS CAN COUNT ON

Missouri's energy infrastructure is old and outdated, as are the century-old rules that regulate it. As a result, modern jobs may be reluctant to come to our state.

This is why the Missouri Senate has made utility reform a priority again this session. Under [Senate Bill 564](#), utility companies will be replacing, modernizing and securing its infrastructure over the next five years. Updating and modernizing Missouri's grid will result in a more stable and secure grid for decades to come. As a result, energy costs will be more stable and predictable over time, allowing businesses to invest and grow. Meanwhile, this important task of overhauling Missouri's energy infrastructure is expected to create 3,000 jobs.

While the grid is being updated, it's also important that families and businesses do not see a sudden increase in their bill to offset the modernization costs. That is why the legislation we passed in the Missouri Senate put rate caps in place to prevent utility bills from skyrocketing.

Customers interested in investing in solar energy would benefit under this bill as it allows for companies to issue rebates to customers who start new or expand existing home solar systems. Customers who start early and whose solar systems become operational between Jan. 1, 2019, and June 30, 2019, can receive a rebate of fifty cents per watt, while customers whose systems become operational after June 30, 2019, through December 31, 2023, can receive a rebate of twenty-five cents per watt. It is my hope that as technology improves and solar systems become more affordable, more Missourians can take advantage of renewable energy sources like solar to reduce their energy costs.

Ultimately, SB 564 is an investment in the future of this state. As our energy needs increase, Missourians need and deserve a grid that is a reliable and affordable source of energy for the long term. Senate Bill 564 helps to move us in that direction with some much needed investment and reform. Currently, Senate Bill 564 is in the Missouri House of Representatives where it was voted out of the House Utilities Committee and has been sent to the House floor for debate.

Solar Rebates

50 cents per watt

Projects completed Jan. 1- June 30, 2019

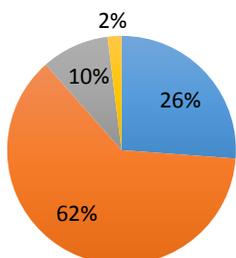
25 cents per watt

Projects completed June 30, 2019- Dec. 31, 2023

LEGISLATIVE SURVEY RESULTS

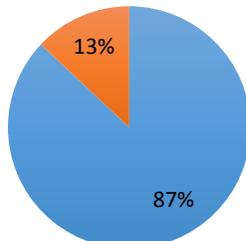
Do you Support Right to Work?

■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure ■ No Opinion



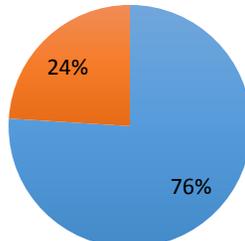
Do you support legalizing medical marijuana?

■ Yes ■ No



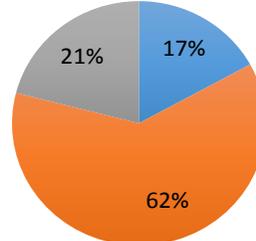
Would you support raising the state gas tax?

■ Yes ■ No



Do you approve of the job the state legislature is doing?

■ Yes ■ No ■ No Opinion



Do you approve of the job Sen. Holsman is doing?

■ Yes ■ No ■ No Opinion

