

Statewide Ballot Issues - Nov 6, 2018 Election

For the full wording of these ballot issues, please see sos.mo.gov/elections/petitions/2018BallotMeasures

Amendment 1 would change the Missouri Constitution to:

What you'll see on your ballot - Official Ballot Title:

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- change process and criteria for redrawing state legislative districts during reapportionment;
- change limits on campaign contributions that candidates for state legislature can accept from individuals or entities;
- establish a limit on gifts that state legislators, and their employees, can accept from paid lobbyists;
- prohibit state legislators, and their employees, from serving as paid lobbyists for a period of time;
- prohibit political fundraising by candidates for or members of the state legislature on State property;
- require legislative records and proceedings to be open to the public?
- State governmental entities estimate annual operating costs may increase by \$189,000. Local governmental entities expect no fiscal impact

What you won't see: While changes are being made to lobbying, lobbyist gifts and campaign contributions what isn't made clear is that the process of redistricting will be dramatically changed to threaten the pro-life, pro-family majority that is in the Missouri General Assembly and change representative government indefinitely in Missouri. Currently every ten years, upon receipt of the new census figures, bi-partisan house and senate commissions (5 Republicans and 5 Democrats) draw the state representative district and state senate district maps according to the new population figures. There must be a 70% agreement in those committees on the lines drawn. If no agreement, the courts will step in and draw the new district lines.

Amendment 1 will take the responsibility of redrawing the maps from elected individuals on those bi-partisan commissions and place it in the hands of one person-a state demographer- who is appointed by the State Auditor. The wording of this amendment also charges the state demographer to draw those lines in such a way that the districts are more equitable meaning 50% Democrat and 50% Republican makeup. This is gerrymandering on steroids as many, maybe most districts would have to be drawn long and narrow reaching into the urban, through the suburban and ending in rural counties to get the right mix.

Supported by: Planned Parenthood, Missouri National Education Association, National Education Association, Sierra Club, SEIU, AFL-CIO, END CITIZENS UNITED and others. The St. Louis Post Dispatch reported that billionaire George Soros' Open Society Policy Center donated \$300,000 to MOVE Ballot Fund; two days later MOVE gave \$250,000 to CLEAN MO.

Opposed by: Missouri Right to Life and Concerned Women for America of Missouri.

Amendment 2 would change the Missouri Constitution to:

- Allow the use of marijuana for medical purposes, and create regulations and licensing/certification procedures for marijuana and marijuana facilities.
- Impose a 4 percent tax on the retail sale of marijuana.
- Use funds for health and care services for military veterans by the Missouri Veterans Commission and to administer the program regulations.

Fiscal Impact: Annual: 4% retail sales tax on marijuana for medical purposes, annual state government: \$18 million revenue, local governments: \$6 million revenue, annual state operating costs: \$7 million.

*More commentary on the proposed measures regarding medical marijuana below.***

Amendment 3 would change the Missouri Constitution to:

- Allow the use of marijuana for medical purposes, and create regulations and licensing procedures for marijuana and marijuana facilities.
- Impose a 15 percent tax on the retail sale of marijuana, and a tax on the wholesale sale of marijuana flowers and leaves to licensed facilities
- Use funds from these taxes for a state research institute to develop treatments for cancer and other incurable diseases or medical conditions.

Dr. Brad Bradshaw would chair the institute and appoint board members to issue regulations and buy land.

The Citizens Initiative for Amendment 3 was funded by Dr. Brad Bradshaw.

Fiscal Impact: Annual: \$66 million revenue from taxes and fees; implementation cost: \$186,000, and annual operating costs: \$500,000.

*More commentary on the proposed measures regarding medical marijuana below.***

Amendment 4 would change the MO Constitution to:

- Remove language limiting bingo advertising.
- Allow a member of a licensed organization conducting bingo games to participate in the management of bingo games after being a member of the organization for six months instead of the current two years.

Fiscal Impact: \$0

Proposition B would change Missouri law to:

- increase the state minimum wage to \$8.60/hour with 85 cents/hour increase each year until 2023, when the state minimum wage would be
- \$12.00 per hour;
- exempt government employers from the above increase; and
- increase the penalty for paying employees less than the minimum wage.
- Beginning January 1 of each year, the minimum wage would be: \$ 8.60 per hour in 2019, \$ 9.45 per hour in 2020, \$10.30 per hour in 2021, \$11.15 per hour in 2022 and \$12.00 per hour in 2023.

Fiscal Impact: \$0 (unless it puts some people into higher tax brackets).

Note: *Prices of goods and services will have to increase to cover the extra cost to employers for this mandated increase and/or employees would have to be laid off.*

Proposition C would change Missouri law to:

- Remove state prohibitions on personal use and possession of medical cannabis (marijuana) with a written certification by a physician who treats a patient diagnosed with a qualifying medical condition.
- Remove state prohibitions on growth, possession, production, and sale of medical marijuana by licensed and regulated facilities, and a facility's licensed owners and employees.
- Impose a 2 percent tax on the retail sale of medical marijuana.

Fiscal Impact: Annual on State government: at least \$10 million revenue, \$2.6 million one-time costs and \$10 million annual costs. Local governments would have no annual costs and at least \$152,000 in annual revenues.

Opposed by: Missouri Right to Life

More commentary on the proposed measures regarding medical marijuana below.**

Proposition D would change Missouri law to:

- Fund Missouri state law enforcement* by increasing the motor fuel tax by total of ten cents-two and one half cents per gallon per year beginning July 1, 2019, exempt Special Olympic, Paralympic, and Olympic prizes from state taxes, and to establish the Emergency State Freight Bottleneck Fund.
- If passed, this measure will generate at least \$288 million annually to the State Road Fund to provide for the funding of Missouri state law enforcement and \$123 million annually to local governments for road construction and maintenance.
- Current motor fuel tax is 19 cents per gallon. The increases on July 1 each year: 19.5 cents per gallon on 7/1/2019, 22 cents per gallon on 7/1/2020, 24.5 cents per gallon on 7/1/2021 27 cents per gallon on 7/1/2022.
- Also increases tax rates on diesel, propane gas, compressed and liquefied natural gas.
- Projects funded by the Emergency State Freight Bottleneck Fund shall be a major road improvement costing \$50 million or more, or an improvement to eliminate a bottleneck, or an improvement to reduce fatal or disabling crashes or an improvement on the 2014 state freight plan.

*currently the State Patrol's budget is within MODOT. If this measure passes, the State Patrol would be independent of MODOT, freeing up the income (projected to be \$288 million) and increasing the budget of the independent MODOT which has no oversight by the Missouri General Assembly. MODOT is run by a commission with no accountability to the people.

Those in favor of the largest tax increase in Missouri's history say it is needed to fund the much-needed road and bridge maintenance or repair/replacement.

Those opposed (nearly half of the Republican members of the Missouri General Assembly voted against SSB1460) say there are ways to fund the needed road and bridge maintenance and

repair/replacement, even improving Hwy 70 by adding third lane both ways without increasing the taxes on the people. They say there is money in the ever-increasing Missouri budget without taking the funding of the Missouri Highway Patrol out from under MODOT. MODOT currently receives money directly from the fuel tax without oversight by the Missouri General Assembly. The new fuel tax would free up a projected \$288 million to MODOT still with no oversight by the Missouri General Assembly.

****Statement in Favor and in Opposition to the Legalization of Medical Marijuana:**

In favor:

- A majority of the public favors legalization. Polls have pretty consistently shown that a majority of the public wants marijuana to be legal. Clinical data also suggests concerns. The interesting thing about clinical data is that it swings both ways in the argument over legalization. While there have been studies that have shown promise, marijuana use has also been shown in some university-run studies to be dangerous.
- Clinical data suggests it can help improve patient quality of life.
- Second, it would be difficult to deny that marijuana hasn't demonstrated positive benefits in university-run and Food and Drug Administration- approved clinical studies.
- It's a potentially new source of revenue and jobs.
- Legalizing marijuana could also be a boon for the economy and individual states

Oppose:

- Clinical data suggests concerns. The interesting thing about clinical data is that it swings both ways in the argument over legalization. While there have been studies that have shown promise, marijuana use has also been shown in some university-run studies to be dangerous.
- There aren't adequate parameters to police marijuana use.
- Another key argument against legalization ties into regulating the drug. As an example, the U.S. has a well-defined line in the sand when it comes to driving under the influence of alcohol. If you're under a blood-alcohol content (BAC) of 0.08%, you may or may not be arrested for driving impaired. If your BAC is 0.08% or over, you're going for a ride downtown whether you want to or not. The parameters are cut-and-dried. Those same parameters simply don't exist when it comes to marijuana, which makes enforcement a nightmare.
- Safe "medical" marijuana would not be smoked.
- Safe medical marijuana would only be allowed for specific medical ailments with proven efficacy and safety.
- Environmental and electric grid drains could be enormous. There are serious concerns about what could happen to our nation's electric grid and the environment if the government gave marijuana the green light. If pot were legalized, it's possible that electrical demands for growing cannabis crops, from lighting to temperature needs via air- conditioning systems, could overwhelm the nation's electric grid.