

EDITORIAL

OUR VIEW

Prop A places rural towns in financial risk

One of the best things about living in this great nation is that we have many opportunities to make decisions for ourselves. We elect representatives in local, state and national government. We vote on amendments and resolutions, and in many cases, we get to choose how we are taxed.

If it passes, Proposition A will eliminate our ability to choose the latter in small towns and rural communities like Kirksville (see story, page 1).

This is not to say that we necessarily support an earnings tax. But we, as a community, should have the right to decide whether we want to utilize an earnings tax or some other tax to generate revenue for government projects.

Those in favor of Proposition A say their support is justified because it will give some Missouri residents the chance to decide how they want to be taxed — only St. Louis and Kansas City utilize an earnings tax. It makes up 33 and 44 percent of their budgets, respectively.

So, we find ourselves at a crossroads. Do we support a Proposition that denies one group of people the right to vote on how they are taxed, or do we deny the other that right?

Aren't we all equals? None of us like paying taxes. But we would be more amenable to paying those taxes if we'd actually had a hand in deciding whether we should pay an earnings tax.

While no one likes paying taxes, they do provide many benefits we enjoy but often might not recognize. In St. Louis, police and fire departments, safe roads and other amenities we might consider to be rights are funded, at least partly, by the earnings tax. It would be only a matter of weeks after voting down the earnings tax (which would be possible if Proposition A passes) before a citizen started complaining about the state of the roads downtown — only to realize that the very tax that was voted down

would have repaved that crumbling road nicely.

It is too late to clarify the wording — too late to find another less confusing proposition. It makes us wonder how our government in Jefferson City is being run that it allowed a Proposition such as this to be placed on the ballot. A Proposition such as this that doesn't provide all its constituents an equal opportunity to vote on or for their taxes (or not vote, if the Proposition should fail).

We don't support Proposition A. It takes away the rights of nearly every Missouri city to choose to enact an earnings tax — except for those that already have one in place. And why? If citizens think they need to tax themselves, they'll find a way to do it, whether it's by instituting a transportation or land tax or by increasing the sales tax. It seems like the earnings tax is being targeted without warrant.

No one enjoys paying taxes, but the bottom line is that those taxes do things for us. The earnings tax might help attract small businesses to rural communities. Kansas City and St. Louis would be hard-pressed to make up for the deficits that will result from the loss of the earnings tax. When these cities need money, perhaps the Missouri government will have to bail them out. If it does, what will happen to Northeast Missouri's already compromised funding?

We don't support voting to do away with the earnings tax — we'll have to make up for that money somehow. But we'd rather give every city the chance to decide its own stance on an earnings tax: let it decide what is best for its own citizens.

In two years, if a Proposition comes along that gives every Missouri city the right to decide whether to collect an earnings tax and every citizen the right to vote on that tax every few years, we will support it. But right now, this Proposition is discriminatory

CORRECTIONS

To submit corrections or to contact the editor, please e-mail index@truman.edu, call us at 660-785-4449 or send a letter to Index, 1200 Barnett Hall, Truman State University, Kirksville, Mo., 63501.

* In the Oct. 14 edition of the Index, senior Jared Young was listed as charged with theft of under \$500. He was not charged with a crime. DPS neglected to separate police reports from conduct code files in its crime log.

CARTOON

By Sam Kyker



Letters to the Editor

Cyclist offers advice on safe bicycling

I would like to address two misperceptions in the article "City receives grant for bike lanes" in the Oct. 14 edition of the Index.

The first concern is the picture showing a cyclist in the bike lane on Franklin Street who is cycling in the opposite direction to traffic. Cyclists should always cycle in the same direction as motor traffic on bike lanes, and I hope this picture does not encourage others to use the bike lane incorrectly!

The second concern is a statement by Joe Eaton, interviewed for the article, who expressed the idea that it is wrong for cyclists to use the middle of the lane. If going at speed as a cyclist, it is safest to use the middle of the lane. Within Kirksville, the speed limit on most streets is 20 miles per hour, and as a cyclist, I easily reach this speed (and sometimes exceed it).

If a cyclist is moving at or near the speed limit, motorists should not overtake, because they would be violating the speed limit. Therefore, the cyclist going at that speed has no reason to facilitate this violation of the law. At the same time, the cyclist at that speed should ensure that he or she is easily seen by motorists and is not likely to hit a pedestrian attempting to cross the street or a car door being opened. These functions are best served by using the middle of the lane.

The most important thing for all road users is to know how to share the road and not to believe that one's own speed is more important than another person's safety. Among other things, this means that car drivers should not take a proprietary attitude toward the use of the road.

Wolfgang Hoeschele
professor of geography

Passing Prop B will endanger pets

I am a licensed Missouri veterinarian who specializes in kennel medicine. My associate and I have several Northeast Missouri kennels in our care. There are mandates in Prop B that are dangerous to the health of adult dogs and puppies.

A pregnant female could easily whelp in freezing temperatures due to the "unfettered access" mandate, which

means open door. Solid flooring means an animal can stand in feces and urine. The Missouri Veterinary Medical Association, American Kennel Club and Farm Bureau have all condemned this proposition. The Missouri Department of Agriculture has stated that no kennel can survive this proposal.

Our kennels are licensed and inspected by the federal and state police, AKC and ourselves. Kennel owners know more about their dogs than most individual dog owners. I have learned more about dogs from them than what I learned in vet school. These are family businesses, and in many cases, the sole family income. Their children work alongside them in the kennels, where they learn animal care, compassion and responsibility. Many of these kids go on to show dogs in 4-H and many will go on to become veterinarians. Who would you rather have as your vet — a kid raised in the kennel business or a kid that grew up watching the television channel "Animal Planet"?

The problem isn't our licensed kennels. The problem is the backyard and backwoods unlicensed mills in Missouri. Don't run the good guys out of business. They love their dogs and many of you love to get those pups at Christmas and on birthdays. Prop B will end all that. You will never be able to afford a purebred puppy again. If this passes, many dogs will be killed in order to meet the 50 dog limit. Your "yes" vote will cause unemployment, ruin families and ultimately kill dogs.

Jim Foster
veterinarian in Shelbina, Mo.

Animal agriculture will suffer from Prop B

I feel compelled to offer a different opinion from that of my colleague Bridget Thomas, professor of classics, in the Oct. 7 edition of the Index concerning the upcoming vote of Proposition B that seems, on the surface, to guard against animal abuse assumed to be rampant in the dog-breeding industry in Missouri. This proposition has been sponsored by a very underhanded organization called the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

Many are aware of local Humane Societies, such as the Adair County Humane Society, and of the excellent work they do in promoting responsible pet ownership and adoption of pets.

However, it is important to differentiate that HSUS is not affiliated with these local organizations. HSUS chose its name to confuse potential patrons in to thinking that the HSUS and the local Humane Societies are one and the same organization. I repeat, they are not!

HSUS has issued a statement that it intends to target the states of Missouri, Illinois and Michigan this year in an attempt to start legislation that will eventually serve its agenda of stopping all animal agriculture in the U.S. This mission has been vocalized and delivered in print by Wayne Pacelle, president of HSUS, and I quote, "One generation and out. We have no problems with the extinction of domestic animals. They are creations of human selective breeding."

Your dog is a domestic species! The Proposition B that has been primarily sponsored by HSUS is only the first step in its goal of eliminating animal agriculture in Missouri. It is true that Prop B only affects dogs, but HSUS is more interested in creating a legal precedence that will establish arbitrary limits on the number of animals that may be legally owned and production qualifications that do nothing to address abuse issues but only make it more difficult to own and operate animal-producing facilities. We already have had legislation regarding equine slaughter in Missouri and the U.S., and animal agriculture is still reeling from the broad-based ramifications that this bad legislation has brought upon us.

Missouri already has very strong and specific legislation to control animal abuse in the dog-breeding industry and was one of the first states to enact such legislation. If HSUS is really interested in protecting dogs, why did it spend only \$450,000 on their care while at the same time collecting, under subterfuge, a reported \$86 million in 2008? I find it interesting that \$31 million was used for HSUS salaries, an additional \$20 million for campaigns, lobbying and legislation and only half of one percent went toward care for the animals. In fact, HSUS had to resort to paying individuals in order to collect the required signatures necessary to get Prop B on the ballot to begin with. Bad legislation on dogs today, bad legislation on animal agriculture, including cattle, swine, sheep and poultry, tomorrow! I truly believe that this Proposition is unnecessary and hides a hidden agenda. Help those of us in animal agriculture serve you by voting "no" on Prop B on Nov. 2.

Glenn Wehner
professor of animal science

INDEX

Serving the University community since 1909

Staff

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Editor in Chief Brenna McDermott | Managing Editor Jack Nicholl | Opinions Editor Molly Skyles |
| Sports Editor Logan Jackson | Features Editor Blaise Hart-Schmidt | News Editor Andrea Hewitt |
| Assistant Sports Editor Tyler Killen | Assistant Features Editor Bethany Coury | Assistant News Editor Dan Warner |
| Sports Staff Derek Franklin Brett McMillan John Moenster Sam Sherman | Features Staff Kathleen Barbosa Meg Burik Alex Carlson Ken Dusold Meghann Henry Kelly Kiesel Elizabeth Necka John O'Brien Charundi Panagoda Burgundy Ramsey Shawn Shinneman | News Staff Kaitlin Davis Stephanie Hall Baillie James Jackie Kinealy Elizabeth Koch Lisa Kucharski Rebecca Smith |
| Multimedia Editor Colette Linton | Design Chief Sarah Schneider | Online Editor Patrick Gross |
| Photo Editor Brian O'Shaughnessy | Designers Regina Alonso Colleen Glaiser Eric Lalonde | Copy Chief Jennifer Brownell |
| Photographers Krista Goodman Caroline Stamp Amy Vicars | Advertising Manager Jessica Pearson | Copy Editors Laura Boville Erik Dauster Stephanie Hall Scott Henson Brittany Keeling Joshua Kehe Elizabeth Koch Laurie Mattson Cassandra McCarty Anna Meier Jessica Phillips Lauren Yarbrough |
| Business Manager Olivia Crandall | Assistant Ad Manager Sam Leister | |
| Cartoonist Sam Kyker | Ad Staff Heather Niebling Hannah Rickman | |
| Distribution and Circulation Bradley LaPlante Andrew Hamline | | |
| Adviser Don Krause | | |

Letters Policy

The Index welcomes letters to the editor from the University community. Letters to the editor are due by noon the Monday before publication and become property of the Index. Submissions are subject to editing, must contain a well-developed theme and cannot exceed 500 words except at the discretion of the Editorial Board. All letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced, signed by at least one individual and include a phone number for verification. The Index does not publish anonymous letters to the editor. Letters to the editor also may be submitted by e-mail at index@truman.edu or on our website at www.trumanindex.com. Include the words "letter to the editor" in the subject line of the e-mail. No individual may submit more than one letter a week.

Editorial Policy

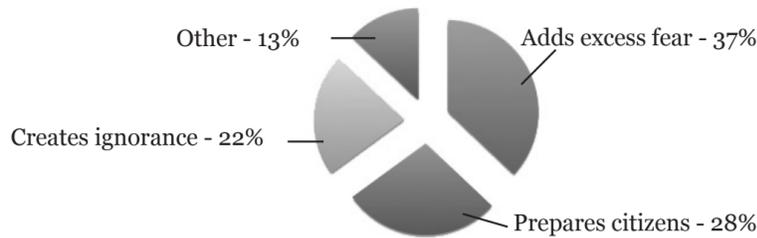
The Index is published Thursdays during the school year by students at Truman State University, Kirksville, MO 63501. The first copy is free, and additional copies cost 50 cents each. The production offices are located in Barnett Hall. We can be reached by phone at 660-785-4449. The Index is a designated public forum, and content of the Index is the responsibility of the Index staff. The editor in chief consults with the staff and adviser but ultimately is responsible for all decisions. Opinions of Index columnists are not necessarily representative of the opinions of the staff or the newspaper. Our View editorials represent the view of the Editorial Board through a majority vote. The Editorial Board consists of the editor in chief, managing editor, news editor, copy chief and opinions editor. The Index reserves the right to edit submitted material because of space limitations, repetitive subject matter, libelous content or any other reason the editor in chief deems appropriate. Submitted material includes advertisements and letters to the editor.

Advertising Policy

For up-to-date information on current rates or to inquire about the availability of classified ads in the Index, contact our advertising department at 785-4319. Our fax number is 785-7601, or you can e-mail us at indexads@truman.edu.

WEB POLL

What does having a terrorism threat level do to the country?



This week's question:

Should there be more than two major political parties?

Vote online at trumanindex.com