

Our View

Extra sales tax would benefit Downtown

With its coffee shops, eclectic thrift stores and boutiques that offer something for everyone and bars within walking distance of just about everywhere, Downtown Kirksville has a lot to offer this small college town. Just imagine what more could be done with an extra \$115,000 each year.

The Kirksville Downtown Improvement Committee wants to put out a petition for business owners to suggest adding a half-cent sales tax to each purchase Downtown to fund improvements (see story, page 8). This measly amount doesn't seem like much, but it has the potential to make a lot of changes. After the 20 years KDIC plans to raise the funds, hopefully about \$2.5 million will go toward creating more parking and enhancing landscaping, outdoor furniture, lighting and marketing of the businesses.

This extra tax would greatly improve Kirksville's aesthetics, which is not only good for current residents but could entice future students or tourists. Many new students complain Kirksville does not offer enough entertainment, but if the Downtown area, which is within walking distance of campus, was improved, students would have a reason to leave their residence halls and experience what Kirksville does have to offer.

Also, having more students shopping Downtown would increase the funds being raised. Unlike most City funding that comes from property tax, which students do not pay, this is a sales tax, meaning students will also be contributing to the improvements of the town they call home for at least the time being.

This tax would also help fund more events Downtown such as concerts, movies or even holiday shopping events. These activities would provide entertainment and likely generate more revenue for the city. With more people visiting an area, more customers will enter and shop at local businesses, which will funnel money back into the community. It's a win-win situation — pay a small tax now and reap the benefits during the future.

With an improved landscape and sidewalk area, this tax could also allow Kirksville to employ a maintenance crew to handle day-to-day upkeep. More jobs in a community also will boost its financial stability.

The advantages of this tax are a no brainer — more money, improved town image and potential financial benefits. So, shop Downtown and watch the area flourish.

Corrections

- Axel Fuentes, a field organizer for the civil rights group Center for New Community in Milan, was misquoted in the immigration story in last week's Index. He said he learned about the immigration bill from immigrants living in Milan. He did not say they were illegal immigrants.
- The infographic on the front page of last week's Index miscalculated the total percentage of budget cuts throughout the last three fiscal years. The correct number is 22.9 percent.
- The crime report in last week's Index said Dan Antal was charged with third degree assault. He was not charged with anything.
- The sports sider about Seth Jackson had the wrong points per game in the photo cutline. Jackson actually leads the Bulldogs with 12.3 points per game.

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

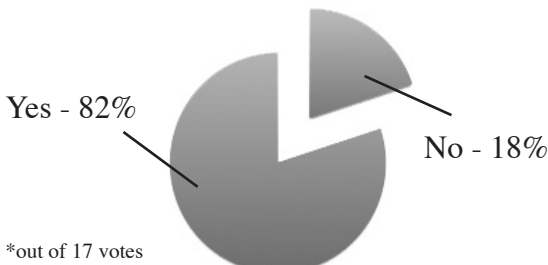
Cartoon

By Sara Hahn



Web Poll

Should Pickler Memorial Library extend its hours?



This week's web poll question:

What do you think about SOPA and PIPA?
Vote online at trumanindex.com

Letters to the Editor

Infographic used wrong percentages

I read with considerable interest the number crunching aspect of your report on proposed cuts by Governor Nixon in Thursday Jan 2012 issue of Index. You have added cuts of 5.2 percent in FY 11, 7 percent in FY 12 and 12.5 percent proposed for FY 13 to arrive at a total of 24.7 percent for the three years 2011-13.

Your readers may already know that you do not add percentages this way. For instance, if you have 50 percent cut in Yr 1 and additional 50 percent cut in Yr 2, your math will say that you have 100 percent cut. But a 50 percent cut followed by another 50 percent cut will leave you with 25 percent of the original, which will mean only 75 percent cut.

Percentage come from a ratio. To "add" cuts, you need to refer back to the original amount. In the case of cuts by the state, suppose the budget was x in year 2010, then 5.2 percent cut will make the budget $0.948x$ in 2011, 7 percent cut in that will make budget $(0.93)(0.948x)$ in 2012, and 12.5 percent cut will make the 2013 budget to equal $y = (0.875)(0.93)(0.948x)$.

Now, budget in YR 2013 as a percentage of the budget in YR 2010 will be y/x , which is approximately 0.771, or 77.1 percent. This means that the cut in YR 11-13 will be $1-0.771 = 0.229$, which is 22.9 percent and not 24.7 percent.

Mohammad Samiullah
physics professor

Illegal immigration must be reduced

In response to "Immigration bill meets opposition" on page 1 of the Jan. 19 edition of the Index.

"The Equal Protection Clause in the 14th amendment guarantees equal protection of law to any person within the state's jurisdiction, not specifically legal citizens."

Actually, the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment guarantees, according to Supreme Court jurisprudence, equal protection of the law for people similarly situated. The U.S. and state tax codes are a case in point. Hugely different tax burdens based on income, source of income, deductions, etc. If the Constitution really did require what is claimed above, once someone was able to get to the U.S., they would be no different than a U.S. citizen as far as the law was concerned. That clearly is not the case, nor should it be!

In Plyler v. Doe, one of the rationals for this wrongly held decisions was that the Court, found, "... while the exclusion of all undocumented children from the public schools in Texas would eventually result in economies at some level," ... funding from both the state and federal governments was based primarily on the number of children enrolled.

In net effect, then, barring undocumented children from the schools would save money, but it would "not necessarily" improve "the quality of education. The court further observed that the impact of [the Texas

law] was borne primarily by a very small subclass of illegal aliens."

Assuming the Court was correct in 1982, which I do not, that the cost to taxpayers was negligible and the numbers of illegal alien children in K12 school was very small and their impact on the quality of education had little or no consequence, it's clearly not correct today. The number of children is huge, the costs in dollars is astronomical and the negative impact on the quality of education for the children of American citizens is likewise huge.

The purpose of these laws, in part, is to gather irrefutable evidence of the terrible consequences to the American people and their children of the wrongly held Plyler v. Doe decision so that it maybe overturned. Of course the amnesty open borders crowd will fight tooth and nail to block any and all efforts to quantify the extent, costs and all other consequences of illegal aliens and their children in our country.

Make no mistake, massive immigration, legal and illegal, is not a partisan political issue. Both the Democratic and Republican parties not only support it but have passed the laws to effectuate it. They both talk about it from the perspective of their special interests, but neither has or will do anything to stop it until their election to office is sufficiently threatened.

That is why the voters of this country must make it clear that their vote first and foremost is conditioned on the removal of all illegal aliens and the drastic reduction of legal immigration.

Online comment

INDEX

Serving the University community since 1909

Staff

Editor-in-Chief Andrea Hewitt
Managing Editor Blaise Hart-Schmidt
News Editor Jackie Kinealy
Assistant News Editors Ashley Jost, Philip Zahnd
Features Editor Kathleen Barbosa
Assistant Features Editor John O'Brien
Sports Editor Sam Sherman
Assistant Sports Editor Kirk Schlueter
Opinions Editor Molly Skyles
Copy Chief Brittany Keeling
Multimedia Editor Dan Warner
Assistant Editor Ken Dusold
Assistant Design Chief Erik La Londe
Photography Editor Jessie Poole
Advertising Manager Sam Leister
Business Manager Ashley Thomas
News Staff Andi Watkins Davis, Grace Freeman, Markia A. Holt, Huong Tran
Photographers Lindsey Gillam, Grace Stojeba
Features Staff Emily Battmer, Alex Carlson, Scott Henson, David Hutchinson, Jenn Marks, Alex Witt
Sports Staff Jonny Brown, Garrett Fritch, Rob Jones, Tyler Poe, Tyler Sigrist
Cartoonist Allison Bannister, Sara Hahn
Copy Editors Hanna Bilinski, Carly Bolliger, Katey Carlton, Emily Haynes, Scott Henson, Elizabeth Koch, Jessica Phillips, Laurie Mattson, Megan Mehmert, Chelsea Rickman, Britney Stubbs, Andrea Trierweiler, Ashley Wolf
Designer Colleen Glaeser, Kate Linman
Advertising Shelby Hewerdine
Distribution Molly Bybee, Bradley LaPlante, David Morris
Adviser Don Krause

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, sports editor 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.

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. Letters containing personal attacks will not be published. 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.

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 tsu.indexads@gmail.com.