

2012 Ballot Measures



Dave Gillette,
economics professor



Randy Hagerty,
political science department chair

Proposition A: Shall Missouri law be amended to allow any city not within a county (the City of St. Louis) the option of transferring certain obligations and control of the city's police force from the board of police commissioners currently appointed by the governor to the city and establishing a municipal police force; establish certain procedures and requirements for governing such a municipal police force including residency, rank, salary, benefits, insurance, and pension; and prohibit retaliation against any employee of such municipal police force who reports conduct believed to be illegal to a superior, government agency, or the press?

Gillette said if money is saved with this proposition, there could be potential for reduced taxes or those taxes going to other things.

Gillette said this is a similar type of circumstance in economics, where they discuss the need to intervene in the market when there is a market failure.

Constitutional Amendment 3: Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to change the current nonpartisan selection of supreme court and court of appeals judges to a process that gives the governor increased authority to appoint a majority of the commission that selects these court nominees; and appoint all lawyers to the commission by removing the requirement that the governor's appointees be nonlawyers?

Gillette said the government is allowed to appoint only a selection of the members every two years. It doesn't require that they be lawyers, it prevents the appointees from being lawyers. The Supreme Court loses its voting position on the commission, but the Supreme Court won't lose their advisory capacity on the commission.

Proposition E: Shall Missouri Law be amended to prohibit the governor or any state agency, from establishing or operating state-based health insurance exchanges unless authorized by a vote of the people or by the legislature? No direct costs or savings for state and local governmental entities are expected from this proposal. Indirect costs or savings related to enforcement actions, missed federal funding, avoided implementation costs, and other issues are unknown.

Gillette said he wants to see inner-state insurance sales legalized and does not want to prevent competition between insurance companies.

Gillette said the downside of this proposition is that it takes longer to process.

Hagerty said every other community in the United States has control of its own police force. He said if this proposition isn't passed, the police in St. Louis would continue to try to exercise local control over police.

He also said this proposition will eliminate money that goes to pay the salaries and the benefits of the gubernatorial appointees.

Hagerty said opponents to the current system argue that this gives too much power to the lawyers. He said letting the governor appoint four members to the review and appointment commission would mean the governor would have the majority vote.

Hagerty said the four appointees would constitute a majority of this nominating commission and the process would no longer be non-partisan.

Hagerty said before Missouri can join one of the health care exchanges required through the Affordable Care Act, this proposition would have to be approved.

He said if this proposition is not passed and the governor does not set up an exchange, the Federal Government will set them up for the state during 2014.

PROPOSITION B | Proposition B could provide an increase in revenue for education throughout Missouri

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reduce and prevent tobacco use.

The measure would increase the amount certain tobacco product manufacturers must maintain in their escrow accounts to pay judgments or settlements, before any funds in escrow can be refunded to the tobacco product manufacturer and create bonding requirements for these manufacturers.

Revenue for state government is anticipated to be \$283 million to \$423 million annually. Funding only will go toward what is permissible by the proposal.

University President Troy Paino said Proposition B would generate about \$300 million in additional revenue and higher education would receive about 30 percent of that amount. Truman could expect to receive \$4 to \$5 million of additional state appropriation, he said.

"This would not completely fill the hole that was left by the budget cuts of the last three years, but it would go a long way in getting back to the budget Truman had in 2008," Paino said.

He said if the University receives more cuts, these additional revenues would help soften the blow of any additional cuts.

Paino said this proposition could provide more resources to Truman.

"We've been cut significantly over the last several years, and that put a strain on what we do here," he said. "We've been cut almost 13 percent in our state appropriation since 2010."

Paino said the University's state appropriations have been cut almost 13 percent during the last three years and the budget cuts have put a strain on the University in a variety of ways.

Budget cuts make it hard for the University to provide support for the faculty, he said, and the work they do in and out of the classroom with students. It also has put a strain on other student services that Truman provides, including the athletic budget, academic budget, and the maintenance and facilities budget, Paino said.

"Any hope of additional revenue at this point in time could go some way in relieving that stress," he said.

Compared to the rest of the state, Midwest and the nation, Paino said he thinks Truman employees are underpaid.

"In order to be competitive and attract the best and brightest faculty and staff to Truman, we have to be more competitive, and without any additional resources and nothing but budget cuts it's difficult to make the math work," he said.

Paino said Proposition B gives Truman hope that there could be an infusion of resources that could help meet some of the University's needs.

During the long term, he said the

hope is the proposition might help reduce the cost of Truman's health insurance premiums.

"We need to look at long term strategies to how we can reduce that cost, and I think that's another advantage of Proposition B," Paino said. "It's going to be creating certain incentives and disincentives around the habit of smoking that could help us on our health care cost down the road."

Stephen Smith, business law and economics professor said the tax increase would displease members of the tobacco industry.

"It may not hurt [the tobacco industry] a lot because its demand is mostly an addictive demand, but if the tobacco industry would not be pleased by the tax they probably would fight it if they could," Smith said.

He said the benefit of Proposition B is the revenue increase for higher education. The other benefit is the tax will raise the price of the product and probably will reduce the consumption of tobacco. He said tobacco demand is not sensitive to price changes.

"If something is in inelastic demand, you can raise the price a lot and the number of buyers will drop, but not much," Smith said.

With taxes you always have to think of the alternative to raise revenue, Smith said. Most other taxes would have more harmful effects on industries considered good industries, whereas tobacco is one that could afford to be harmfully affected, he said.

Smith said one negative factor for the proposition is this tax is regressive.

"A regressive tax means a tax that disproportionately burdens lower income people compared to middle class, and middle class people compared to wealthy people," Smith said.

Economics professor David Gillette said the purpose of Proposition B is to convince tobacco consumers to smoke fewer cigarettes by raising tax prices.

These means have been successful in other states, Gillette said.

"People will find a substitute for smoking cigarettes, such as thin cigars that are like cigarettes but are not taxed at the same rate," Gillette said.

"If we keep everything else constant then any additional revenues we get are going to be more money for tax profiteers."

Gillette said the impact of Proposition B will not be on the tobacco industry but on the form in which the tobacco is consumed.

"Whenever you change a rule, you're going to influence behavior," Gillette said. "If consumers want to purchase tobacco products, the proposition will only change their consumption."

MCCLANAHAN | Democratic candidate for state representative discusses her life

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The couple eventually adopted the first foster child they cared for; Andrew. McClanahan said Andrew now is 40 and an integral part of her family. She has another son, Bryan, and one granddaughter, Amélie.

McClanahan said she was interested in politics throughout her life, partially because her family always had been involved in politics and her father ran for political offices. This interest was fueled by an experience she said she had as a nursing student involving health care legislation throughout Missouri.

She participated with hundreds of nurses throughout the state in lobbying and advocating for a vetoed bill about nursing practices to be overridden by the legislature. She said the bill ultimately was overridden because of the efforts.

"Those experiences were such a

poignant illustration for me of the power of citizens influencing the legislative process," McClanahan said. "So I was hooked."

She said the experience prompted her to take her students to the Capitol to participate in the Missouri Nurses Association's advocacy day each year, a tradition that still is practiced by senior nursing students at Truman.

McClanahan said she also is active with Kirksville nonprofit organizations, many of which are related to the health care field. She currently is the president of the Missouri Nurses Association and does volunteer work through her church.

The thread of nursing even extends into her hobbies, which she said include taking walks for spiritual and physical renewal, specialty cooking, entertaining and reading.

FINANCE | Candidates finalized MEC filing for the last campaign deadline

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wanted HRCC involvement.

"We needed to campaign hard and raise money, and every goal they gave me, I met" he said.

The House Democratic Campaign Committee has not donated money toward McClanahan's campaign, she said. She said she understands the HDCC doesn't have as many resources or as much money as the majority party with broader-range resources and larger donors the HRCC has.

McClanahan said that as a Demo-

crat she knows not to expect large donors, which is something she likes because of her support of campaign contribution limits.

"Probably some of my favorite contributions are the smallest ones," she said. "When people earnestly look me in the eye and hand me a check, which I know has been difficult for them."

During the last filing period, from Oct. 1 through Oct. 25, McClanahan received 78 donations from individuals, more than twice the individual donations from Walker's campaign,

which received 28.

Total donations, both monetary and in-kind, from individuals, committees and businesses, during the same period totaled \$13,794.95 for McClanahan, and \$50,068.75 for Walker.

With less than one week left in the election, both candidates are preparing for their final push.

McClanahan said her campaign plans to make a strong effort to raise money and gain supporters. Walker said their campaign plans to "keep doing what they're doing."

WALKER | Republican candidate for state representative talks about his life

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through his work in politics and his participation in local organizations.

After completing his undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of Missouri-Columbia, Walker said he worked as a research analyst for the Missouri House of Representatives before eventually running for district 12 state representative. He served two terms in the legislature during the 1980s and has since worked for several government agencies, as well as economic development agencies and other organizations.

He said he initially intended to run for the Adair

County commissioner seat during this election, but after Rep. Wyatt pulled out of the race for the House seat, he was approached by several people about filling the vacancy. He said he has put his work as a realtor in Kirksville on hold to work full time on his campaign.

Walker said he also is involved in multiple local organizations including the Kirksville Chamber of Commerce, Kirksville Rotary Club and the United Way.

"Wherever I've lived, I've always been involved in the community," Walker said. "I'm the kind of person who will probably never retire."



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