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Capitol Report September 27th, 2018

Missouri's unemployment rate remains at an 18-year low, as the unemployment rate edged down another tenth of a point to 3.3 percent in August, while nonfarm payroll employment in the state grew by 1,000 jobs. The monthly increase in private-sector employment was 2,700. Industries with job growth included Professional and Business Services (+4,000), Financial Activities (+1,100), and Leisure and Hospitality (+1,100). These gains were partly offset by job decreases in Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-1,800); Manufacturing (-1,500); and Local Government (-1,600).

Over the past year, Missouri payroll employment has grown by 35,300 (+1.2 percent). Most industry groups experienced employment growth over that period. The largest categories of increase were in Professional and Business Services (+13,700, 3.6 percent); Private Education and Health Services (+12,100, 2.6 percent); and Leisure and Hospitality (+6,300, 2.1 percent).

Statewide Ballot Measures

On November 6th, the citizens of Missouri will have several legislative/constitutional issues to decide. Of the current six measures (the Western Appeals Court restored the so-called Clean Missouri language to the ballot), five are initiatives (placed by citizen signatures) and one referendum (placed by the General Assembly).

As of 2018, citizens are required to file at least 100,126 valid signatures for initiated state statutes and veto referendums, and are required to file at least 160,199 valid signatures for initiated constitutional amendments. These signature requirements are the requirement if petitioners collect signatures in the smallest of the state's congressional districts to satisfy the state's distribution requirement. Collecting signatures in larger districts would result in a slightly larger signature requirement.

As Election Day approaches, I will recap the several statewide ballot measures approved to appear on the ballot this November. This week, I will cover Amendment 4.

Amendment 4 Official Ballot Title:

Do you want to amend the Missouri constitution to:

- remove language limiting bingo game advertising that a court ruled unenforceable; and
- 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?

As you know, many community service organizations are struggling to gain and maintain membership. This ballot measure allows a member to help in the management of bingo games after six months of membership rather than the now required two years. Of course, the decision of who participates in game management is up to the affected organization.

Also, the original amendment (1980) restricted advertising beyond the premises of the organization. Another portion of this amendment would remove that restriction.

A **“yes”** vote will amend the Missouri Constitution to remove language limiting bingo game advertising that a court ruled was unconstitutional and not enforceable. This amendment would also 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, a reduction from two years. A **“no”** vote will not amend the Missouri Constitution regarding bingo games.

State and local governmental entities estimate no costs or savings from this proposal.

Historical Note: Prior to 1980, bingo games were illegal in the state of Missouri. In that year, the General Assembly referred a constitutional amendment to authorize religious, charitable, fraternal, service, and veteran organizations to conduct games of bingo. On the ballot as Amendment 3, voters approved the measure on November 4, 1980. Amendment 3 required that an organization's bingo game managers be members of the organization for at least two years. The amendment also prohibited organizations from advertising bingo games, except on their own premises. Voters rejected making changes to the amendment in 1990 and 2000.

It is an honor to serve the 51st District in the Missouri House of Representatives. Each week I will issue a capitol report to keep you informed of activities in Jefferson City. Any concerns or issues you might have are of great interest to me. I look forward to your input and thoughts, so please feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions, concerns, or ideas to improve our state government and the quality of life for all Missourians. My telephone number is 573-751-2204 or you may contact me by email at dean.dohrman@house.mo.gov. Thank you for working with me to make Missouri a great place to live.



Last Saturday, I joined several people in Warrensburg to celebrate recovery week. Among those attending were Judge William Collins and former Senator David Pearce. The large gathering enjoyed a cookout and heard testimonies from those who have found recovery services to be a path to reintegration into productive society. Thank you Professor Adriatik Likcani for the invitation!

Serving the Constituents of the 51st District,

State Representative

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