

From Trish Curtis of the Social Justice Committee...

"Democracy is the only system that persists in asking the powers that be whether they are **the powers that ought to be."**

- Sydney J. Harris

The election ending on **August 4**, though it's a Primary Election, is very important.

What's on the ballot? You can choose candidates for our Congressional Representative, our State Auditor, your area's MO State Representative, our MO State Senator, our City Collector of Revenue, License Collector and Recorder of Deeds. The League of Women Voters does not take positions on these partisan contests. Do your own research to see who deserves your trust in these positions.

What else is on the ballot? Permanent statewide Amendments may have a greater and longer lasting effect on Democracy in MO than elected officials.

Amendment 1: This continues the statewide sales tax that is used for conservation and our state parks. This is one penny on every \$10 you spend.

Amendment 2: Requires each county to elect an assessor—doesn't apply in St Louis, but in Jackson County.

Amendment 4: Makes it more difficult for Missourians to express their will using the Initiative Petition process. In the past decade **we voted for** a minimum wage and just overtime/sick pay, expanding Medicaid, ethics standards on lobbying and campaign spending in the legislature, and right to work when the majority of our elected legislators opposed these measures. These legislators want to further limit citizens' ability to enact laws that we believe will be good for most people. **VOTE NO.**

Amendment 5: Will gradually phase out MO Income Tax at the same time that Sales Taxes will need to grow to fund the Missouri Budget. Also allows new sales taxes to be put on things we've never paid sales tax on before. People with high incomes can save and invest their money without having it taxed. Lower income people use every last penny to buy necessities which will be taxed at ever higher rates. Instead of a 6% tax on laundry detergent or a package of socks, we may be paying 20%. **VOTE NO.**

What should voters do next?

Check your voter registration, your picture ID and polling locations (if voting before Aug 4.) Study and discuss the issues and encourage friends to vote, too.

What are the important deadlines?

W, July 8

Deadline to register for August 4 Primary election.

T, July 21

No-excuse in-person absentee voting opens. (At City Board of Elections and these public libraries: Buder, Carpenter, Davis, Schlafly and Walnut Park. Hours vary. Closed Sundays.)

Th, July 22

Deadline to request a mail-in absentee ballot.

M, August 3

Last day for in-person absentee voting.

T, August 4

Election Day: Polls open 6 AM–7 PM. (In line by 7 PM? You can vote--stay in line.)

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

St. Louis City Board of Elections: 314-622-4336

St. Louis County Board of Elections: 314-615-1800

Need a ride to the polls? Call The A. Phillip Randolph Institute: 314-562-0411.

REGISTER—LEARN THE ISSUES—MAKE A PLAN—CAST YOUR VOTE