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T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

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Candidates split on tax plan

Amendment 5 emerges as key issue in crowded GOP primary

Steph Quinn
MISSOURI INDEPENDENT

The outcome of a crowded Republican primary for Missouri’s 6th Senate District could turn on the plan to eliminate the state income tax — and how much voters trust lawmakers to overhaul the tax code.

Appearing on the ballot as Amendment 5, the top priority of Gov. Mike Kehoe would give lawmakers five years to impose sales taxes on transactions not currently taxed and raise existing sales

tax rates, with the revenue produced used to phase out the income tax.

When the legislation came up for a final vote in April, state Rep. Rudy Veit of Wardsville — an attorney running for the District 6 Senate seat after eight years in the House — was one of only nine House Republicans to vote no.

Now four of the six candidates vying to replace term-limited state Sen. Mike Bernskoetter of Jefferson City say Amendment 5 is too vague about new or increased taxes Missourians would have to pay in exchange for eliminating

the income tax.

Veit told The Independent the proposal is unpopular with constituents.

“They’re just concerned it’s too wide open,” Veit said. “They don’t trust us — our legislature — that much to start with, and you tell them, ‘We don’t know what we’re going to charge, but we know we’re going to raise the money.’ That doesn’t fly very well.”

“I’ve been in the legislature eight years, and I don’t have that much trust in them,” Veit added. “I can’t imagine what people on the outside looking in see.”

It’s a concern shared by Macks Creek restaurant owner Amber Buckles, Camden County Presiding Commissioner Todd “Ike” Skelton of Osage Beach and former state Rep. Lisa Thomas, a psychiatrist from Lake Ozark.

Jake Vogel, president of Jefferson City Coca-Cola Bottling Company, told The Independent he differs from his fellow candidates because he “would have voted yes to move (Amendment 5) toward the ballot for the people.”

But even Vogel, who was endorsed by Kehoe, stopped short of praising the plan.

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Officials look for origin of intestinal illness



Cyclosporiasis outbreaks are often associated with fresh, unwashed produce. GETTY IMAGES

Parasite that causes it found on fresh produce

Mary Walrath-Holdridge
USA TODAY

A summer surge of an explosive diarrhea-causing illness has left health officials and the public searching for answers as cases of the parasitic infection surpass the 1,000 mark.

Federal and state investigators have yet to determine a common cause for multiple clusters of cyclosporiasis, a condition caused by a parasite commonly found on fresh produce. While it often spikes during the summer, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defining cyclosporiasis “season” as May 1 to Aug. 31, the size and nature of the outbreaks have the CDC and Food and Drug Administration looking to pinpoint its origins.

Past outbreaks proved difficult to track, as tools used for other common foodborne illnesses aren’t useful for the cyclospora parasite.

With new recalls and outbreaks an-

Stop spread of cyclosporiasis

- Avoid consuming food or water that may be contaminated with feces. Avoid drinking or cooking with untreated water
- Wash your hands with soap and water after using the bathroom and before, during and after food prep
- Wash all food prep surfaces, including utensils, cutting boards and countertops, before and after use
- Wash and peel vegetables before eating them; scrub produce with skins such as melons and cucumbers well; and cut away damaged or bruised areas on fruits and vegetables before preparing and eating them
- Refrigerate prepared fruits and vegetables as soon as possible (within two hours)
- Cook your food when you can; heating food to 158 degrees or higher kills cyclospora

nounced almost daily, the enduring mystery surrounding the so-called diarrhea parasite begs the question: Why is it so hard to track?

Most clusters of foodborne illness and infectious disease today are traced via whole genome sequencing,

a technique in which the unique genetic code of a pathogen is tested and compared to establish a unique “fingerprint.” This DNA “fingerprinting” lets scientists determine whether

See **PARASITE, Page 3A**

DEER HUNTING

Free webinar on programs scheduled for July 28

Janis Reeser
Columbia Daily Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Missouri Department of Conservation and the National Deer Association will host a free Zoom webinar focused on deer hunting programs and venison donation at 6 p.m. July 28.

The online session will highlight efforts to recruit, retain and reactivate deer hunters and explain how landowners can participate in venison donation programs, according to a community announcement.

Participants will hear from a National Deer Association outreach specialist before a question-and-answer session with staff from both organizations.

Readers can join the webinar by saving the Zoom link and accessing it at the scheduled time: //us06web.zoom.us/j/89381654747us06web.zoom.us. Those who have not used Zoom on their device are encouraged to open the link early and follow prompts to install the free software.

Series continues with deer management topics

The event is part of a multi-session webinar series on Missouri deer management hosted by the conservation department and the deer association, according to the announcement.

A final webinar in the series will focus on wildlife food plots in Missouri and is scheduled for 6 p.m. Aug. 25. Recordings from earlier sessions are available at tinyurl.com/4ajcy7rh.

More information about deer management practices and resources is available on the department’s website at mdc.mo.gov.

This story was created with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Journalists were involved in every step of the information gathering, review, editing and publishing process. Learn more at <https://cm.usatoday.com/ethical-conduct/>.

