

# THE JOPLIN GLOBE

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**ON THE TABLE:** Summer and the cooking is easy. **3A** | **BASEBALL:** Sports writer says Cardinals will play in October. **1B**

## Residents ask lawmakers about Amendment 5

BY DEBBY WOODIN  
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A nearly full audience turned out to hear two Missouri legislators Monday night discuss replacing state income tax revenue with a sales tax. The proposal will appear as Amendment 5 on the Aug. 4 ballot.

Rep. Bishop Davidson and Sen. Curtis Trent, both of the Springfield area, came to Joplin City Hall as part of a regional tour advocating for Amendment 5.

The amendment, if passed, would replace the income tax with more state sales taxes, not only on goods but also on services, though they have not offered details on the specific services they would tax or the amount of the state sales tax.

Davidson said that the income tax will not be eradicated immediately. It will be reduced as revenue from sales and use taxes grow. He also said funding for public schools would be retained.

Once eliminated, the income tax could not be reinstated except by a new vote.

The legislators are working with Americans for Prosperity-Missouri, a Libertarian conservative group that advocates for specific policy goals. Trent is the sponsor of the Amendment 5 legislation in the Senate; Davidson is the House sponsor.

A banner at the speaker's podium in the City Council chambers where the legislators spoke bore the logo of Americans for Prosperity-Missouri. AFP also is seeking initiative petition reform, known as Amendment 4, which is also on the Aug. 4 ballot. Davidson said they would answer questions only about Amendment 5.

Rep. Lane Roberts, R-Joplin, opened the discussion by introducing the legislators and spoke about his experiences in other states where he previously lived. He said the ballot measure is misunderstood, adding that it is complicated.

"States that have no income tax outperform those that do," Roberts said. He formerly lived in the state of Washington, which had no income tax at the time he lived there and has been described by him in previous meetings as having a robust economy as a result.

Camellia Peterson, the AFP-Mo legislative director, asked Davidson why Missouri needed to change its revenue base. At first, she was asking questions submitted

SEE **ASK**, 2A

## ELECTION NEARS

Deadline approaches for voters to register for Aug. 4 election

BY JOHN HACKER  
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CARTHAGE, Mo. — The deadline for Missouri residents to register for the Aug. 4 primary is next week.

According to Jasper County Clerk Charlie Davis, non-registered residents have until Wednesday, July 8, to register and have a voice in countywide races as well as four state constitutional amendments and other races.

Absentee voting for the primary with an excuse started last week and will run through Monday, Aug. 3. No-excuses absentee voting starts July 21.

Sample ballots for this upcoming election have been posted on websites for counties across the state.

### JASPER COUNTY REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

In Jasper County, 11 seats are up for a vote in August with the winners advancing to the November general



Deputy County Clerk Terry Dawald helps Jasper County Presiding Commissioner John Bartosh vote absentee in person Tuesday at the Jasper County Courthouse in Carthage. Bartosh has served for 20 years as presiding commissioner but is not running for reelection this year.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

election. Three of these races in the Republican Party are contested, while no Democrats or Libertarians are running for any of county seats.

This means the winners of the Republican primary

in Jasper County will likely be the winners in the general election Nov. 3.

Contested races for countywide office in Jasper County:

•**FOR** associate circuit judge Division 4, incum-

bent John A. Nicholas faces challenger Tracey Dawn Martin.

•**FOR** the clerk of the circuit court, former court clerk Melissa Holcomb

SEE **NEARS**, 2A

## Candidates face voters in Aug. 4 primary

BY JOHN HACKER  
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Candidates for federal and state office will face voters in the Aug. 4 primary.

Absentee voting started June 23, and the deadline to register to vote in this primary is July 8.

The Missouri state auditor is the only statewide office up for a vote in this 2026 with incumbent Scott

Fitzpatrick facing a Republican challenger, Gerald (Jerry) Wistrand, in the primary.

Candidates from the Democrat and Libertarian parties have filed, so there will likely many three-way races in the Nov. 3 general election.

Also up in this election are all eight U.S. congressional seats in Missouri, all 163 Missouri House seats and

one-third of the Missouri Senate seats, including Senate District 32, which represents Newton and Jasper counties.

Candidates in local races are as follows.

### STATE AUDITOR

#### REPUBLICANS

Scott Fitzpatrick, Shell Knob.

Gerald (Jerry) Wistrand, Oak Grove.

### DEMOCRAT

Quentin Wilson, St. Louis. Gregory Upchurch, St. Charles.

### LIBERTARIAN

Dustin Coffell, Lake St. Louis.

### U.S. REP. DISTRICT 4

#### REPUBLICAN

Mark Alford, Raymore. Heather Shelton, Belton.

SEE **FACE**, 2A



The U.S. Supreme Court is seen Monday in Washington. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Supreme Court upholds birthright citizenship

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A divided Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld a broad conception of birthright citizenship, rejecting President Donald Trump's executive order declaring that children born to people who are in the United States illegally or temporarily are not American citizens.

By a 6-3 vote, the court struck down Trump's order. A bare majority of

five justices, in an opinion written by Chief Justice John Roberts, held that the long-settled understanding of the 14th Amendment, adopted after the Civil War, makes a citizen of anyone born in the country, with very limited exceptions.

"Citizenship, then and now, was the right to have rights — to freely participate in our political community. The Framers of the Fourteenth Amendment extended

that promise to 'every free-born person in this land,'" Roberts wrote for the court, citing congressional debate over the amendment, "We keep that promise today."

A sixth justice, Brett Kavanaugh, disagreed about the constitutional ruling, but pointed to a federal law that he said broadly conveys birthright citizenship.

Justices Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch and Clarence Thomas would have

upheld Trump's proposed restrictions.

"The Court today takes the extraordinary step of holding facially unconstitutional the President's Order excluding from citizenship the children of foreign temporary visitors and illegal aliens," Thomas wrote in a 91-page dissent, more than three times as long as Roberts' opinion. "In doing so, the Court adds to the sad

SEE **RULING**, 2A

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