

ROGER KOCH
IS THE LEADER
WE NEED NOW!



For State Representative 162nd District
(Vote for 1)
☐ Walter Hayes
☒ Roger Koch

MISSOURI STATE REPRESENTATIVE - DIST 162

VOTE TODAY - ROGER KOCH

Paid for by Veterans for Roger Koch, Victoria Ales, CPA, Treasurer

WIND TURBINE: No injuries in Barton County collapse. 4A | BASEBALL: Joplin Jailbirds take MINK League title. 1B

‘Transformational’



Crystal Lemmons (right), dean of the College of Health, Life Sciences and Education, leads Felicia Vaught and others on a tour of the Roy Blunt Health Science Innovation Center on Monday.

New health sciences building at MSSU ready for opening

BY JOHN HACKER
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A new “front door” on the campus of Missouri Southern State University stands ready to swing open and welcome students.

Crystal Lemmons, dean of the College of Health, Life Sciences and Education, led a tour Monday of the soon-to-be dedicated Roy Blunt Health Science Innovation Center and showed off the healthcare and educational technology in the building.

“I am incredibly excited,” Lemmons said. “This has been a two- to three-year-long process for planning every intricate detail and we have done that with student learning at the forefront of everything that we have done.”

Lemmons said the biggest feature of the new building is its simulation hospital that fills the second floor.



Kennadi Stegall, supervisor at the new Cafe Roar Coffee Shop, prepares a latte in what is expected to be one of the most popular additions to the Missouri Southern State University campus with the opening of the new Roy Blunt Health Science Innovation Center.

“There are many undergraduate institutions that may have a simulation (medical) room or maybe even a couple of rooms and those rooms have to function...in multiple ways to try to teach as many different levels or areas of simulation as possible,” Lemmons said. “Our simulation hospital has each of the major rooms in a hospital itself.

Students can meet in an actual operating room, complete with real medical grade equipment, plus utilizing sophisticated software simulation where we can program that to mimic just about any situation.”

MSSU President Dean Van Galen called the building “transformational” more than once on Monday’s tour.

He said the 72,000-square-foot building came in at \$48.2 million, with \$30 million coming from the state.

“And then the rest of it came from businesses, foundations, alumni, friends, the city of Joplin, Jasper County, the federal government,” VanGalen said. “So so many people

SEE MSSU, 2A

Missouri voters head to polls

Those in line at 7 p.m. will be allowed to cast ballots

BY JOHN HACKER
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The barrage of mailers and television advertisements for this ballot issue or against that candidate will come to an end — at least until this fall — as voters in Missouri head to the polls Tuesday.

Poll hours are 6 a.m.-7 p.m. People arriving after the polling place has closed will not be allowed to vote. However, those individuals in line at 7 p.m. will be allowed to vote, according to the Missouri secretary of state’s office.

Those who are registered will be allowed to vote. Registration closed last month.

Missouri law provides multiple identification options for voters, including Missouri driver’s license, Missouri nondriver’s license, U.S. Passport and military ID. Those who don’t have a valid ID will be allowed to cast a provisional ballot, according to the secretary of state’s office. If they come back to their polling place on election day and show a valid photo ID, their vote counts, or if their signature matches the signature in the voter registry, their vote counts.

SEE PRIMARY, 2A

Dozens of candidates vie for seats in primary

August winners in Jasper County likely to be winners in November election

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

JASPER COUNTY

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

SEE CANDIDATES, 2A

Missouri turnout could hit 1.4M as ballot measures drive interest

Secretary of state predicts about 32% of voters to appear at polls

BY RUDI KELLER
Missouri Independent

Missouri election officials expect as many as 1.4 million voters will cast ballots by the time polls close Tuesday, continuing the historic trend of high turnout in

primary elections featuring major ballot questions.

Secretary of State Denny Hoskins last week forecast turnout will be about 32% of registered voters, which if correct would be the highest primary total vote since 2004. That election involved a proposed constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage and a historic Democratic primary where Gov. Bob Holden became the only Missouri governor ever defeated by his own

party for reelection.

This year, there is no headline-grabbing statewide candidate primary. Instead, two ballot measures — amendments 4 and 5 — have drawn more spending than in any candidate race.

Local election authority estimates show turnout will vary widely across the state, Hoskins’ office said in a statement to the Independent. Intense congressional primaries are underway in the northern half of the state in

the 1st, 5th and 6th districts, plus hard-fought state legislative and local races.

Turnout is expected to be as low as 20% in some counties and as high as 70% in others, Hoskins said.

Because his estimate is based on local projections, it is only as good as the guesses behind it, Hoskins said. In 2022, turnout was estimated at just under 32% and actual turnout, of about 1 million voters, came in at 24%. There was a crowded U.S.

Senate primary in the Republican Party that year but no major ballot measure.

In 2018, there were no high-profile candidate primaries, but a right-to-work referendum drew 1.4 million voters.

Reports on early voting from some of the state’s larger counties show high voter interest.

In Boone, Greene and St. Charles counties, the number of people who had voted by the end of last week

exceeded early-voting numbers from the 2024 primary.

More than 4,000 people had voted in Boone County by the end of the day Thursday, said County Clerk Brianna Lennon.

“The past two days have been over 500,” she said Friday morning. “I anticipate today will be similar.”

In Greene County, where as many as 55,000 people are likely to cast ballots,

SEE VOTING, 2A

