

VOTE: Missouri Republicans oust sitting senator. **4A** | **MSSU:** Football team takes field for first practice of season. **1B**

161st District race may not be decided until Friday

31 votes separate
candidates in
GOP primary

BY DEBBY WOODIN
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Certification of votes cast in Tuesday's primary election cannot be completed until noon Friday under Missouri law.



Ross



Secker

That means that the outcome of narrow races, such as Tuesday's Republican primary race for the 161st District seat in the Missouri

House, won't be certified until then, according to the Jasper County Clerk Charlie Davis.

In that race, there were only 31 votes Tuesday night separating the two Republican candidates. Thomas Ross had 1,586 votes, and Louise Secker had 1,555 votes.

Davis said Wednesday that his office will be working until Friday documenting provisional ballots that

were cast Tuesday and any overseas or military ballots that come in by mail. The office received 24 provisional ballots and two overseas ballots so far that must be added to the vote count if they are determined to contain valid voter identification, he said.

Provisional ballots must wait so that the eligibility of the voter can be verified. To do that, election officials must set provisional ballots

aside on election day and review identity information after the election to determine if the voter has produced adequate proof of identification or met other qualifications in order to be counted.

Davis said he was not sure how many provisional or mail-in ballots were still to come.

The winner of the 161st race, once declared, will face Democrat Aaron Joseph

Metzger, of Joplin, in the November general election.

OTHER HOUSE RACES

In the 127th District, Brenden Kelley received 5,804 votes, beating Ryan Hagedorn, who received 2,335 votes. The district covers rural north and east Jasper County, Barton County and parts of Cedar and Dade counties. The winner of the

SEE **HOUSE**, 2A

Ballot results



Volunteers Joel Morris (left) and James Morris carry ballots and equipment for the precinct judges from their car to the east side of the Jasper County Courthouse on Tuesday.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Melissa Holcomb, Mike Roberts defeat incumbents for Jasper County offices

BY JOHN HACKER
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CARTHAGE, Mo. — Jasper County will likely have a new circuit clerk, a new prosecuting attorney and a new recorder of deeds in January, based on preliminary election results in the Aug. 4 primary.

And both Jasper and Newton counties will have new presiding commissioners.

JASPER COUNTY

- **FORMER CIRCUIT CLERK** Melissa Holcomb received 9,761 votes to incumbent Kimberly Clinton's 4,729 votes.
- **FOR PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**, challenger Mike Roberts

SEE **PRIMARY**, 2A



Brent Hensley (left), who won a three-way race for Jasper County recorder of deeds, and John Nicholas, who defeated a challenger for associate circuit judge for Division 4 in Jasper County, congratulate each other Tuesday night in the Jasper County Courthouse.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER



Scott Charton, spokesman for Missourians for Fair Taxation and Missourians for Fair Governance, says voter rejection "buried" amendments 4 and 5 on Tuesday during an election night celebration in Jefferson City.

MISSOURI INDEPENDENT | RUDI KELLER

Voters reject income tax, petition measures

Amendments 4, 5 fail
by wide margins

BY RUDI KELLER
Missouri Independent

Missouri voters rejected major Republican priorities on Tuesday as proposals to eliminate the income tax and change the way initiative petition majorities are counted lost by large margins across the state.

Amendment 4 lost 80% to 20%, while Amendment 5 fared worse, losing 83% to 16%.

"Amendments 4 and 5 have been buried so deep in citizen rejection, they should never come back," said Scott Charton, spokesman for the two Missouri Association of Realtors-funded opposition groups, Missourians for Fair Governance and Missourians for Fair Taxation.

One measure of the magnitude of the "no" vote is that it created a mirror image of the majority requirement Amendment 4 would have imposed on constitutional amendments proposed by initiative.

Amendment 4 would have required amendments to achieve a majority in every congressional district in order to pass. All eight of Missouri's congressional districts opposed both Amendment 4 and Amendment 5.

Speaking at a gathering with other organizations that worked against the two amendments, Charton said the outcome validated the need for a strong initiative process and taxpayer rights.

"Citizen-led, voter-approved constitutional taxpayer protections have been strongly defended and reaffirmed by the people of Missouri, and our fellow Missourians sent a powerful message to Jefferson City," Charton said. "The people are in charge. The majority rules, and every citizen's vote counts equally."

Two other statewide ballot questions, Amendment 1 and Amendment 2, were passed easily, each receiving in excess of 75% of the vote.

Amendment 1 extends the 0.1% sales tax that supports state parks and soil and water conservation. Amendment 2 will require that all county tax assessors be elected officials and affects only Jackson County.

'OUR WORK IS FAR FROM OVER'

Gov. Mike Kehoe, while projecting

SEE **AMENDMENTS**, 2A

Missouri redistricting referendum blocked

Secretary of state's
decision draws immediate
court challenge

BY RUDI KELLER
Missouri Independent

Missouri Secretary of State Denny Hoskins blocked a public vote on the state's new congressional map Tuesday, declaring a referendum petition

unconstitutional a few hours before polls closed in the primary election.

He refused to tell reporters at a Jefferson City press conference whether the petition had enough valid signatures to qualify for the November ballot. It didn't matter, he said, because the Missouri Constitution does not allow a referendum on redistricting.

"Whether they had one signature or 500 million signatures doesn't really matter

because they are unconstitutional," Hoskins said at a news conference.

The political action committee People Not Politicians turned in more than 300,000 signatures in December, and local election authorities spent hundreds of hours verifying whether the people who signed were registered voters.

Hoskins also rejected a proposed constitutional amendment to limit legislative power to change measures passed by

initiative. That proposal, which would have been Amendment 6 on the Nov. 3 ballot, violates the requirements that ballot measures be limited to a single subject and amend only one article of the constitution, he said. The Respect MO Voters committee also submitted more than 300,000 signatures, and Hoskins declined to disclose that count as well.

Hoskins' decision brought an

SEE **REFERENDUM**, 2A

