



MISSOURI PRIMARY

VOTERS CRUSH AMENDMENT 4



SAM BRUSVEN, POST-DISPATCH

From left, Brian R. Jared, Brent Sager, Matthew Becker and Antwann Rhodes talk before an election night watch party hosted by the Missouri Association of Realtors on Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2026, at the organization's Jefferson City office. The Realtors association was against both Amendments 4 and 5, which were both overwhelmingly rejected by Missouri voters.

Resounding margin of defeat surprises some observers

BY JACK SUNTRUP
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Missouri voters overwhelmingly rejected Amendment 4 on Tuesday, surprising some observers with the resounding margin of defeat.

The amendment — which would have required voter-led constitutional amendments to win in every congressional district, instead of a simple statewide majority — garnered support from less than 20% of voters statewide, according to unofficial returns.

It lost in every county, with 77% of voters in conservative St. Charles County voting “no,” and 83% of St. Louis County voters

rejecting the question.

The question performed best in Shelby County, in northern Missouri, where it won 41% of the vote.

Former state Rep. Tony Lovasco, a St. Charles County Republican who won his party's nomination to a state House seat Tuesday, said he was surprised by the losing margin.

“I thought it would’ve done better,” he said Wednesday. “But I was incorrect.”

Scott LaCombe, assistant professor of political science at the University of Missouri-Columbia, also expressed surprise.

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Charter schools looking to grow

In contrast, SLPS expected to close 20 schools in city

BY BLYTHE BERNHARD
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The city's declining population is driving St. Louis Public Schools to consolidate buildings, while charter schools are looking to increase their share of the students.

The changes reflect the fluctuating school landscape as birth rates have dropped and families have shifted to charters or moved out of the city. Over the past decade, SLPS enrollment fell by 7,279 while charter schools gained 2,513 students, for a total public school enrollment loss of 5,420 students.

By fall 2027, SLPS is expected to close some 20 schools, at least one charter school plans to open and two existing charters will expand. A similar situation played out in 2021, when SLPS closed seven schools and one charter school opened.

Charter school growth has not been on a straight upward trajectory in the city. Seven charters have opened while nine have closed since 2016, including St. Louis Voices Academy this spring.

The SLPS board and the St. Louis Board of Aldermen in 2021 each passed a moratorium on new schools in the city — symbolic moves to discourage the growth of charter schools. Any actual restriction on charter schools would have to come via state law, which allows for charters in St. Louis, Kansas City and Columbia, along with perpetually struggling districts, like Normandy and Riverview Gardens.

Charter schools receive public funding but are operated by independent, appointed boards. Charter advocates opposed the moratorium and say city parents need more choices for tuition-free schools.

Alice Prince, former executive director of the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment, plans to open Vanguard Academy charter middle school in North City in 2027.

“Charter schools offer choice and I think that our community deserves choice,” she said. “I think that also any time there is competition, I believe that there is an increase of standards and that’s also important.”

Vanguard will provide social services

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Suspect in driver's death accused of killing cousin

Woman who worked for Lyft killed in gun battle

BY DANA RIECK
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

CLAYTON — One of five teens charged in the gun battle that killed a Lyft driver in January is also accused of shooting and killing his cousin a month later, according to juvenile court officials.

The information came out Thursday morning in a hearing held to determine whether the 17-year-old should be charged as an adult. Until that happens, the juvenile's name will not be released.

More than a dozen of the victims' friends and families attended the hearing. They listened as deputy juvenile

officer Laura Criscione explained the allegations against the teen — and his life circumstances that will factor into the judge's decision on whether to move him to adult court.

The teen is charged with two counts of second-degree murder and two counts of armed criminal action.

In the first case, Criscione said he is accused of being one of several teens to open fire during a gun battle at an apartment complex near Canfield Drive in Ferguson on the afternoon of Jan. 30.

Three teenagers rode in a Lyft to the area, investigators say, where they planned to gun down an adversary. But that adversary, 18-year-old Noah

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Residents voicing concerns on battery, solar farm plan

Neighbors worrying about environmental, other issues

BY ETHAN COLBERT
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

LINCOLN COUNTY — Residents here are expressing concerns over Ameren Missouri's proposal to transform rolling farm fields, horse pastures and woodlands into a 12-acre lithium battery energy storage plant and a potential 1,100-acre solar field.

Among those hoping to block the project is Kenzie Aubuchon, who worries that it would doom her family's farm, where six generations have tended to crops and raised cattle, pigs, goats and chickens.

“When I initially heard it, I thought

there's absolutely no way this can be true,” Aubuchon said. “Farming is everything, it's our way of life out here.”

Last week, with a standing-room-only crowd at the Pike-Lincoln Vo-Tech Center, the Public Service Commission held a hearing on the project. Dozens of people later logged into a separate virtual meeting. And residents say they are meeting on Saturday in Troy to organize against the project.

Some residents worry that local volunteer firefighters would not be equipped or trained to battle a blaze at the battery facility. Others raised concerns about noise from the facility and potential impacts on the environment, wildlife

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