

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF MISSOURI

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LWV Legislative Bulletin May 14, 2019

LWV members are encouraged to personally communicate, as individual voters (not as LWV members), with their legislators on the various legislative bills. Previous issues of the Legislative Bulletin can be found at this link: <https://lwvmissouri.org/legislative-bulletin/>

Find your legislators at this link: <https://www.senate.mo.gov/LegisLookup/Default.aspx>

The Legislative Session ends on Friday, May 17!

CLEAN MISSOURI AND ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT

The Senate Fiscal Oversight Committee defeated a motion to approve HCS/HJRs 48, 46 & 47 (Plocher) on May 13 by a tie vote of 2-2. Senators Nasheed and Rizzo voted against the joint resolution. It appears that only those two Senators could move for the committee to reconsider the vote, but proponents are still trying to find a way to take the joint resolution from the committee and bring the measure up for final approval before the session ends on May 17.

HJR 48 would significantly undermine the newly approved redistributing reforms approved by voters in Constitutional Amendment 1, also known as CLEAN Missouri. If approved by voters, the HJR 48 would eliminate the nonpartisan state demographer and move partisan fairness and competitiveness to the lowest priority in the redistricting process. The House also added language that may shift the basis of redistricting away from total population, as is currently the practice in all 50 states.

The LWV strongly opposes HJR 48.

ACTION NEEDED - PLEASE CALL, WRITE OR USE THE LINK BELOW to send an e-mail to urge your State Senator and State Representative to oppose any attempts to undermine the anti-gerrymandering rules in Missouri's constitution. The message can be edited, and your message will have **GREATER IMPACT** if you add your own comments.

<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/keep-missouri-clean>

This just in from Empower Missouri:

This is a major year for criminal justice reform in Missouri. Gov. Parson and the General Assembly recognize that Missouri has failed to be “smart on crime” with many previous policy decisions. As we head into the final week of the 2019 Legislative Session, we have the opportunity to get two of our (Empower Missouri) priority proposals onto the Governor’s desk and signed into law in one bill.

Senate Bill 1 was voted Do Pass by the House Special Committee on Criminal Justice in a May 6 hearing. An amendment was added there that reforms Mandatory Prison Time policies in Missouri, a major driver of [mass incarceration](#) and our exploding corrections budget over the past decade. SB 1 has now advanced to the House calendar.

If you will [send an email to your Missouri House of Representatives member today by using this link](#) (or the button below), you have the opportunity to get legislation passed that could lead to a decrease in the prison population of 925 by 2023, save the state more than \$6 million, and remove barriers to housing, education, and employment for citizens who are returning to their communities from incarceration.

[Email Your
Legislator](#)

The Legislature is set to adjourn at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 17, so this action cannot wait.

TAX BILLS – “Wayfair Fix”

[House Bill 548](#): Both House Bill 548 and Senate Bill 46/50 include the “Wayfair Fix”, which would level the playing field for Missouri’s bricks and mortar retailers and bring in much needed revenue to support the services our communities need to thrive. However, both bills currently have counteracting provisions that would more than negate any benefit from the Wayfair Fix.

We need advocates contacting their lawmakers with the following message.

- **Please oppose Senate Bill 46/50 and House Bill 548 and instead pass a “clean” Wayfair Fix. Ask that they oppose HB 548 and instead support a clean version of the “Wayfair Fix”** (See the Missouri Budget Project’s quick summary of the Wayfair Fix here: <http://www.mobudget.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Wayfair-Fact-Sheet-April-2019.pdf>)
- Overall, Missouri’s current budget situation, already volatile, is likely to worsen as the changes included in Senate Bill 509 are implemented over the next several years.
- **Any additional changes to tax policy should help us meet current needs and not stop us from correcting issues when they arise.**
- Increases in state General Revenue should be used to address current budget needs and invested in the services in our local communities that help families, communities and the economy thrive.

- This is particularly important as lawmakers are considering paying for highway and bridge repairs from general revenue and we need to ensure that we can pay these additional costs.
- Our current budget situation is volatile, at best, and any changes in tax policy should help us meet current needs and not stop us from correcting issues when they arise. **House Bill 548 would make the volatility more severe.** Increases in General Revenue should be used to address current budget needs and not irresponsibly wasted on *new loopholes or giveaways*.

It is doubtful that there is time to deal with this before session ends on Friday.

INITIATIVE PETITION AND AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

The Senate debated SS/SJR 1 (Sater) on April 17. On May 13, SJR1 is on the Senate Bills for Perfection on the Informal Calendar. Chances of this moving are slim.

The joint resolution pertains to signature requirements for initiative petitions. SJR 1 more than doubles the signature requirements by mandating that petitions to amend the Constitution be signed by 15% of the legal voters in each of all eight Congressional districts (rather than the current requirement of 8% each from six of the eight districts) and also requires a two-thirds majority for a petition measure to be adopted, except for a petition to repeal prior initiative petitions such as Amendment 1. ***This measure would make it harder and more costly for citizens to bring forward relevant policies through the initiative process.***

TITLE IX DUE PROCESS

The Senate debated SS/SCS/SB 259 (Romine) on April 16 for nearly seven hours but did not bring the bill to a vote. As of May 13, 2019, SB259 is on the Informal Calendar Senate Bills for Perfection. Chances of this bill moving are slim.

The bill implements a new procedure for due process proceedings in higher education institutions for complaints made under Title IX of the Federal Education Amendments, which protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs. SB 259 revises Title IX procedures at higher education institutions. There is concern about the potential impact that related regulations put forward by Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos from the U.S. Dept. of Education would have on schools and the learning environment for all students.

CONCEALED WEAPONS ON CAMPUS

HB 575 (Dohrman) was passed by the House on April 8 (98 Ayes, 52 Noes) and was sent to the Senate. It was voted Do Pass on April 25 by the Senate Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety Committee. The bill would allow campuses to designate campus protection officers allowed to carry weapons on campus. The bill also includes the provisions of HB 258 (Taylor). This language would take away local control of college and university governing boards to regulate concealed weapons on campus and allow any person, including students and staff, with a concealed carry permit to carry concealed weapons on campus. Chances of this bill moving are slim at this point.

LWVMO position on Gun Control: Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.