

# THE **WATCHDAWG** REPORT

## November 8 Ballot Choices

Here in Camden County, many positions were decided in August with the Republican Primary. We are very pleased to congratulate Ike Skelton (Presiding Commissioner), Heather Miller (Associate Circuit Judge), Richelle Grosvenor (Prosecuting Attorney), Kayla Henry (Circuit Clerk) and Ken Hayden (Circuit Judge) on their victories. They will appear uncontested on the November 8 ballot.

County candidates uncontested in the primary and on the November 8 ballot are Rowland Todd (County Clerk), Donnie Snelling (County Recorder), Teresa Murray (County Collector) and Jimmy Laughlin (County Auditor). All good, and much appreciated for their hard work every day.

For State Representative, Lisa Thomas in District 123 and Jeff Knight in District 142 are both unopposed Republicans.

Mike Bernskoetter is our State Senator after re-districting. He campaigned as a Conservative, but his voting record seems quite RINO-y. He is the Republican Primary winner, and we support him fully as our new Senator...with hopes he will listen when we share our views on proposed legislation. He's running unopposed for District 6.

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Missouri Constitutional Amendment 3 is not what it appears to be.

## **nEven Pot Advocates Dislike Amendment 3 Here's Why Everyone Should Vote NO**

Medical marijuana was legalized in Missouri when voters approved of Amendment 2 in 2018. Amendment 2 legalized marijuana for medicinal purposes, taxed marijuana sales at 4%, and spent tax revenue on healthcare services for veterans. For recreational marijuana, the possession of 10 grams or less of cannabis has been decriminalized. Possession of 10 grams or less is punishable by a fine only, but the offense remains a criminal misdemeanor.

The "Legalize Marijuana" Constitutional Amendment 3 on the November 8 ballot is misleading, and dishonestly proposed. It's bad for everyone, including those who support legalization. I personally witnessed the paid-for petition signature gatherers lying to people on the street and in private parking lots to get them to sign. Many people sign without reading, because they don't think the person with the clipboard could be lying...unfortunately we don't live in that honest world anymore. Excellent info can be found at <http://www.noon3.com>, and here's some highlights.

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**United States Senator: Eric Schmitt** – Libertarian Candidate Jonathan Dine is unknown to us. We encourage right leaning Republicans to welcome their Libertarian friends to come in to be a good influence on the Republican Party. I don't think we're too far apart these days.

**Missouri State Auditor: Scott Fitzpatrick** – John Hartwig, Jr is running as a Libertarian. We mostly like Libertarian policy, but must stick with the party we know can win and try not to dilute the vote.

**US Representative, District 3 – Blaine Luetkemeyer** – We hope constituents in this district will advise Rep. Luetkemeyer that using the bully pulpit to progress Conservative views is often as important as voting. He has a responsibility to do both.

**US Representative, District 4 – Mark Alford** – Based on recent questioning, Mark needs to brush up on the Supremacy Clause, but we feel he's better positioned than Libertarian Candidate Randy Langkraehr.

**Vote Yes to retain Zel M Fischer on the Missouri Supreme Court.** Our research shows he has a Conservative view.

**Vote No on retaining Robin Ransom on the Missouri Supreme Court** – Appointed by Parson in 2008 as the first African American woman on the court. The St. Louis Post Dispatch calls her record "sterling". State Rep. Ashley Bland Manlove said the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus was pleased by Ransom's appointment but thought "the fact that it took two centuries to happen highlights the continued need to address inequities in all aspects of Missouri's Judicial system."

**Vote No on retaining Don Burrell of the Southern District Court of Appeals** – Clerked for a Bush appointee. Retained in 2010 with 70.9% of the vote. Appointed by Matt Blunt in 2008.

**Vote Yes on retaining Jack Goodman of the Southern District Court of Appeals** – We like his work from when he was in the State Senate.

Finding information about these judges is a challenge. We did the best we could and defaulted to a No as we believe regularly replacing judges is fundamentally a good idea. If your research guides you differently, please share so we have benefit of all available info. Contact@watchdawgreport.com.

## Proposed Missouri Constitutional Amendments on the November 8 Ballot

**Vote Yes on Amendment 1** – allows the General Assembly to override current constitutional restriction of state investments by the state treasurer.

**Vote No on Amendment 3** – Marijuana legalization bill that creates unwanted cronyism, government interference, unfair criminalization for some, and prevents review by the General Assembly.

**Vote No on Amendment 4** – We don't understand why the General Assembly is involved at all with the KCMO police department. Maybe this whole thing needs to be reviewed by our legislators.

**Vote Yes on Amendment 5** – Gives the Missouri National Guard more autonomy by removing it from under the Missouri Department of Public Safety.

**Vote No on Shall there be a convention to revise and amend the Constitution...**...this is for the Missouri State Constitution. Not to be confused with the national effort focused on a US Convention of States. Here in Missouri, we need to use our Republican super-majority to propose constitutional amendments and keep our Constitution safe from outside influences.



*Pot Amendment 3 Continued from Page 1 – Quoting various sources:*

**Amendment 3 would change the Missouri Constitution to include:**

- Law enforcement stop-and-cite mandate for smoking in public
- 3-ounce possession limit with fines and misdemeanor penalties for possessing, producing, sharing, or delivering 3-6 ounces
- **Felony charges** for possessing, producing, sharing, or delivering more than 6 ounces
- Mandates that anyone serving a sentence for more than 3 pounds must **FINISH** the sentence before being eligible for expungement
- Must be in a **government database** if you want to Home grow, and **waive your 4th Amendment protections** against warrantless search
- **Creates a monopoly** for medical marijuana businesses to enter the recreational market which leads to high prices for consumers
- Proposes a microbusiness license category that **ordinary Missourian entrepreneurs are blocked from** and that can be controlled by the current marijuana monopoly operators and those funded by corrupt out-of-state operators
- The bill **adds** several iterations of public consumption crimes into the state constitution; Page 21, Paragraph 3 lists all the ways cities and counties can continue to criminalize marijuana within their respective jurisdictions (including public consumption); also, worth noting that this bill also loops edibles into the same category as smoking under "consumption."
- All marijuana sold in Missouri pursuant to this measure shall be cultivated in Missouri.
- All public records produced or maintained under this measure are subject to provisions of the Missouri Sunshine Law.
- Within 60 days of the effective date of the measure, the department will appoint a **chief equity officer** to assist in the development and implementation of the programs to inform the public of the opportunities provided that the measure will establish.

**If you do support the end of marijuana prohibition**, check out HB2704 The Cannabis Freedom Act proposed in the Missouri House by Republican Ron Hicks. This would be the right way to legalize in Missouri, although like any bill it's a tough read. Legislation in the General Assembly has input from constituency across the state and can be more easily adjusted in the future. If legalization (and all the baggage attached) becomes part of the Constitution via ballot Amendment 3, it is almost impossible to make changes later.