

THE WATCHDAWG REPORT

PILF – The Good Voter Database

We've shared a couple of articles about ERIC, the voter registration database designed to collect voter data for unfriendly entities. This issue, we bring you PILF, The Public Interest Legal Foundation. PILF is a national nonprofit law firm dedicated to election integrity. They launched their website on February 27, 2023. The following is taken from The Epoch Times:

A new interactive website database is now available for free to individual citizens and election reform groups across the country to help in the fight to get all states to obey a federal election law mandating regular voter roll maintenance.

The data provided on the website is designed to encourage some defiant state election official to comply with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. According to federal stature, state election officials must "conduct a general program that makes a reasonable effort to remove the names of ineligible voters from the official lists of eligible voters."

Attorneys for PILF have had to file lawsuits against election official in Pennsylvania, Texas, North Carolina, Mississippi, Minnesota, and Michigan to force state election officials to do their statutory duty to clean up the voter rolls. In 2021, Pennsylvania agreed to remove 20,000 dead people from the voter rolls.

Interesting to note: Michigan's Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson has fought in court for more than two years to preserve over 25,000 deceased individuals on the voter rolls. In January 2023, Benson was presented the Presidential Citizens Award by Joe Biden in honor of her service in the office and her courage in standing up to election-denying protesters.

Are you surprised by the many forms of corruption being exposed? At least now we know.



Camden County

ATF Confrontation - Camden County Commissioners sent a letter to the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) in response to their communication with local Planning and Zoning (P&Z). The ATF did not explain in their original letters that the context of the inquiry about specific individuals was regarding Federal Firearms License (FFL) renewals. It asked in about two sentences if a particular gun shop owner in the county had violated P&Z rules. Individuals were named in separate letters. The ATF says they are following their normal process. Wouldn't it be nice to have mentioned that purpose in the letter...not that including an explanation would have made this OK. Camden County says that the letters are federal government overreach and referred to the 2nd Amendment Preservation Act (SAPA) which mandates local authorities do not facilitate federal inquiries regarding gun ownership. The arrogant ATF did not explain themselves in their letter and appears to not recognize the SAPA. The Commission is drawing attention to the matter across the state. What we don't know yet is if licenses for these gun shops will be held up without the formal response from P&Z. It's good to stick by SAPA for the good of all citizens, and it remains to be seen if the gun shop owners will suffer with delayed or rejected license renewals.

County Audits - The results of the forensic audit of the County Collectors Office will be reviewed by the Commission in April. The read out happens after this issue of the Watchdawg is published, but we'll have some info to share in May. The County Commissioners are systematically working with various county offices using a reputable audit professional to find process gaps and look for improvement opportunities. It's a good thing from a management point of view, and well in line with the Commission's mandate to make the workings of the county more transparent to citizens. We appreciate County Collector Teresa Murray and her staff for stepping up to work with the auditor on this project.

Lead levels in the air at the newly remodeled courthouse were dangerously high at the time that employees were scheduled to move back in. Disturbance to lead based paint during the renovation appears to be the culprit. According to on-line research, the two steps to lead dust removal are to start with HEPA filter equipped vacuums, and then clean thoroughly with something like 409. A new contractor (the sign on the truck said "Spartan") is in the courthouse now, presumably vacuuming and wiping down all cracks, corners, and crevices. They are expected to finish before the end of April. The artfully worded Veregy contract will probably protect them from having to pay for this work. So, more county dollars are being spent because of the weirdly (and by weirdly I mean unethically) awarded Veregy contract. Neither the then county attorney Charlie McElyea nor Presiding Commissioner Greg Hasty took the time to negotiate a reasonable contract with Veregy. They approved and signed the version that came directly from the contractor which contained an entire page indemnifying them from responsibility for hazardous materials...which is strange because a major part of their work was to remove asbestos. Remember the email where County Auditor Jimmy Laughlin wrote to the Veregy VP, "We'll get this done!". If "get this done" referred to getting Veregy their contract format and getting an astronomical price approved on a single bid, the effort was certainly successful. I know I say it every month, but I hope the county does an investigation to get to the bottom of who did what when this mess all started. I'm still working on getting readable sun shined information to complete my own research. We don't know at this point how workers for the subcontractors that breathed the poisonous air will respond to this recent revelation. We hope Veregy is at least responsible for their lawsuits.

The Commissioners continue to communicate with Veregy to try to get the work finished, and they wisely have chosen not to pay invoices until the contract is satisfied. If uncompleted work has to be done by others, I'm pretty sure the bid process will be closely scrutinized, and I humbly suggest a qualified bidder's list be developed. It's not clear if change orders would be created to de-scope the Veregy contract (hard to do since it's a lump sum), if the contract will be cancelled by the county, or if other options are available. We appreciate the 2023 Commission having the foresight to do the lead test and order the very necessary post-Veregy wipe. Hopefully the Veregy flush comes soon.

There's a little extra space here (hardly ever happens!), so I thought I'd share some information about good things to read.

The Epoch Times comes digitally and also as a real newspaper, which I love. It's \$16.50 a month and includes Epoch TV. American Thought Leaders and Joshua Phillip are my favorites. Subscribe at <https://theepochtimes.com>

Hillsdale College sends out a monthly publication for free, called Imprimis. You can get a copy by subscribing on their website at <https://imprimis.hillsdale.edu>. You can sign up for free courses at Hillsdale.edu and click on "Online Courses". They are committed to educating thoughtful people, no hype.

To receive twice daily email updates from Rush's producer James Golden aka Bo Snedley, subscribe at <https://bit.ly/3pHMVOD>. To listen to his radio show, go to <https://bit.ly/34x4mtW>.

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Missouri General Assembly Actions

These bills are the only ones that have been Truly Agreed To & Finally Passed as of April 12

SB51 - Eslinger - Under this bill, you don't need a doctor's referral to receive treatment from a physical therapist that has a Doctor of Physical Therapy or five years of clinical experience. By law, they have to send you to a doctor if there is no demonstrable improvement after thirty days. Bill Summary:

https://senate.mo.gov/23info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=44469

HB14 – Cody Smith Provides for cost-of-living increase of 8.7% for state employees across the departments and raises mileage reimbursement from \$0.55 to \$0.655. Full Bill text here:

<https://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills231/hlrbillspdf/0014H.04P.pdf>

HCR1 – Patterson -Convenes a joint session for the State of the State Address

HCR2 – Patterson - Convenes a joint session to receive a message from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Missouri

These Senate Bills Reported Do Pass in the House

SB 39 – Thompson Rehder – This act prohibits a private school, public school district, public charter school, or public or private institution of postsecondary education from allowing any student to compete in an athletic competition that is designated for the biological sex opposite to the student's biological sex as stated on the student's official birth certificate or other government record as described in the act.

Yeah!! Thank you, Senator Holly Thompson-Rehder! You get it!

SB 49 – Mike Moon's bill establishes the "Missouri Save Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act. The bill's intent is to prevent transgender surgeries and treatment of children. Important issue, and hopefully they won't water it down and mess it up too much before it passes. Kudos to Senator Moon.

SB 100 – Eigel – Requires the State Treasurer to keep an amount matching at least 1% of state funds in gold and silver. Exempts capital gain from sale or exchange of gold and silver from state income tax – Hallelujah! A Conservative!!

SB 109 - Bernskoetter – Extends the sunset date on certain geologic resources fees and changes the makeup of the Industrial Minerals Advisory Council which includes representatives from various types of mining. This is our Senator. I'm so embarrassed. How is this important.

SCR 4 – Eigel – Commends Israel for its cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with Missouri and the US. I did not know Missouri had a relationship with Israel. No idea what importance this has at the state level. If you know, please enlighten me.

SJR 3 - Koenig - This constitutional amendment, if approved by the voters, prohibits the General Assembly from setting a state income tax rate exceeding 5.5%. This amendment also modifies a provision prohibiting sales taxes levied on transactions not taxed as of January 1, 2015, by providing an exception for sales and use taxes on subscriptions, licenses for digital products, and online purchases of tangible personal property. The top Missouri tax rate is now 5.3 %. Moving in the right direction, but what happened to Eigel's bill to remove the Personal Property tax? That's the one I want.

These are some of the Senate bills in House Committees.

SB 3 -Hoskins - By no later than June 30, 2025, and annually thereafter, this act requires the Commissioner of Administration to file a report with the General Assembly that includes information on contracts awarded to businesses that have been in operation for less than three years, as described in the act. Is this government involved in business...sponsored by a Republican?

SB 20 – Mike Bernskoetter's barn burner of a bill (sarcasm) that changes the dates the Board of Trustees of MDOT and Highway Patrol Employees' Retirement System end their terms. Who voted for this guy?

SB 24 – Hough – Creates the "Missouri First Responder Mental Health Initiative Act" – how exactly does this raise up Conservative issues?

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SB 28 – Justin Brown – Modifies provisions relating to access to public records of the Missouri highway patrol. This act provides that a minimum fee of \$6 may be charged by the Missouri State Highway Patrol for any request where there are allowable fees of less than \$6. I'll say it again – Who voted for this guy?

SB 34 – Authorizes school districts to offer elective social studies course in the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. The summary says “This act requires that any course offered shall follow applicable laws maintaining religious neutrality, and shall not endorse, favor, promote or show hostility to any particular religion, nonreligious faith, or religious perspective.” I don't know about you, but I don't want the school system's “neutral” view of my Christianity taught to my grandkids. Bill Sponsor Karla May is a St. Louis Democrat – how does a democrat bill that teaches faith as Social Studies get passed by the Republican super majority? I guess we'll see if that happens.

SB 40 – Thompson-Rehder This bill allows for more complete background checks for volunteers, coaches, etc. – people who our children are exposed to at school. Senator Holly is two for two!

SB 45 – Extends MO HealthNet Medicaid benefits for the duration of pregnancy and for one year following, replacing throughout the pregnancy, and for 60 days following end of pregnancy.

SB 47 - This act exempts homeless children, homeless youths, and unaccompanied youths, as defined by law, from certain fees collected by the Department of Revenue fee offices.

I don't have an opinion on Senator Elaine Gannon's bills (45 & 47) as to good or bad. My question is are they worthwhile in today's environment of suppressed freedoms and the need for Conservative action?

SB 82 – enhances state aid for families “transitioning” to a higher income. A Republican (Mary Elizabeth Coleman) sponsors a bill to increase government programs that require additional funding. Unbelievable.

SB 96 – Koenig – Modifies provisions relating to votes in political subdivisions. Even the summary of this bill is contradictive and confusing. I'm sure there's something hidden in there I don't like, but I can't find it. Go to senate.mo.gov and read this bill. Let me know!

For your entertainment, go to senate.mo.gov and house.mo.gov, and look for the bill reports. It's pretty easy to see what bills are where in the process. A few clicks and you can read the summary, read the full text, and see the Sponsor's information. Just poke around. It's interesting to see what they're up to.

Do you know of any Republican in this state who ran as a Moderate or Liberal? I don't either. They run as Conservatives, but obviously very few actually are. Where's the brave legislator sponsoring the bill to outlaw lobbying in Missouri? I know, it's laughable.

I'm forever frustrated by the Missouri General Assembly's always frantic sessions that are highlighted by the Conservative activists running themselves into the ground trying to get so-called Conservative Legislators to favor Conservative Legislation. Their job should be a breeze with a super majority, but the influences of money, lobbyists and Republican gowned Leftists who simply lied to get elected seems impossible to overcome. This could all be handled in the election season. It would never be this hard to convince actual Conservatives to support Conservative legislation.

I propose that we tie the legislative season to election season by evaluating and labeling each bill our Senator and Representative Sponsors and Co-Sponsors as Left (Big Government), Center (neutral/milk toast) or Right (Small Government). Trying to capture and analyze committee and floor votes is complex and misleading because bill content changes in committee. If our legislators are doing the job we elected them for in a Conservative district, there should be no question about them sponsoring, co-sponsoring and loudly supporting bills that support the platform of their constituency. No doubt most voters don't know what legislation their Senators and Representatives sponsored during the session. We hire these people to do a job, and then never measure their work. Any good employer will tell you that's a recipe for failure.

How can we help with that? I think the Watchdawg may be about to bring this concept to life, for our districts anyway...anyone interested in helping read and rate legislation? Serious! Contact me.