

THE
WATCHDAWG
REPORT

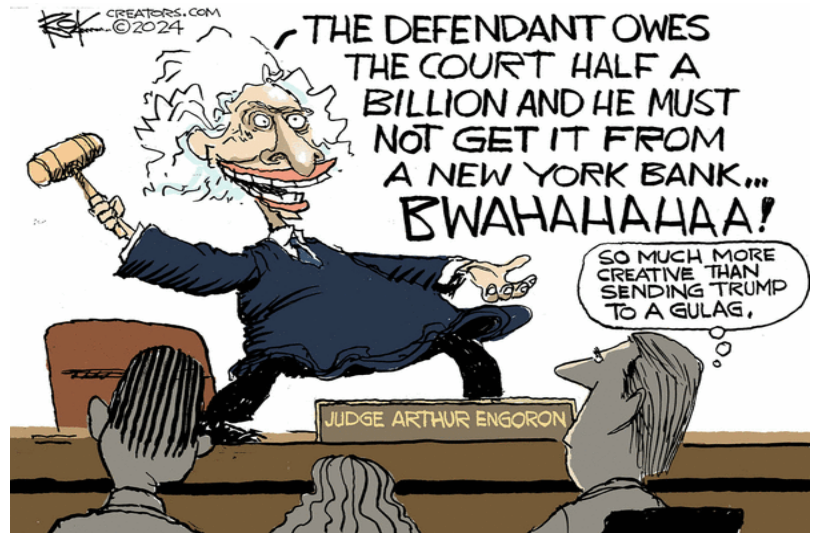
Missouri General Assembly

Our RINO Senators in Jefferson City (including Mike Bernskoetter) are helping Democrats destroy SJR 74, the bill that established the requirement for a concurrent majority to approve any amendment to the Missouri Constitution. A concurrent majority gives rural voters an equal say-so on approving amendments to the Missouri Constitution, as opposed to a simple majority favored by big city Democrats.

SJR 74 (Senate Joint Resolution 74) was submitted and fought for by the Missouri Freedom Caucus of conservative Senators. SJR 74's purpose is to correct an existing amendment to the Missouri Constitution that allows any amendment to our state Constitution to pass with a simple majority vote. SJR 74 mandates that any Constitutional amendment must pass with a concurrent majority. That means that at least 82 House Districts must vote in favor of the amendment. This ensures that rural voters have a say on Missouri Constitutional Amendments. Makes sense, right?

During an all-night filibuster, corrupt Republicans voted with Democrats to change the bill. In their typical performance of snatching defeat from the mouth of victory, Mike Bernskoetter and others disappointed their constituents once again.

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Presidential Caucus Lessons Learned

Thank you very much to the 321 high information voters who attended the Camden County Republican Caucus on March 2nd. I recognized Watchdawg readers in the group!

The certification committee did a great job of checking ID's and voter ID cards against voter records provided by the County Clerk's office. The bleachers at the middle school in Camdenton were not particularly comfortable, so congratulations for toughing it out to help your party.

Considering the challenge, our Camden County Caucus was a success. There were radio spots, newspaper ads, and Facebook advertisements to alert voters. Local Republican Club communications informed their members. It's not easy to reach every Republican in Camden County who is not associated with the Committee or the Club. Turn-out exceeded our expectations, and I'll be interested in feedback about primary vs caucus for our next Presidential election. I think I prefer the Caucus because I know this year who the delegates are, when the Conventions are, and about the GOP Platform amendments.

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With the current SJR 74 version, only Amendments brought via Initiative Petition, or a Constitutional Convention require the concurrent majority. This sets the stage for Democrat and RINO introduced Constitutional Amendments that pass through the General Assembly to be approved by Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield voters alone. Rural voters will be ignored when this scenario unfolds. SJR 74 is the only Senate Bill assigned to a House Committee as of 3/12/2024. Concerned citizens are contacting their State Representatives asking them to restore the omitted language so that any change to the Missouri Constitution enjoys confirmation by a concurrent majority. Rep. Lisa Thomas' number is 573-751-1119.

In their usual display of disarray, and failure to coalesce around a few important issues, Missouri Republican Legislators have once again focused on displaying their skill in writing legislation that is unimportant in these incredibly troubled times. That is not to say that all these bills are bad, but as far as I am concerned **if it is not fighting Democratic Socialism/Communism by protecting our border, our children, our personal freedom or state sovereignty it is a waste of everyone's time.** This is more proof that implementing term-limits without also passing a law against lobbying was not a good choice. I wonder if anyone will ever work up the courage to write that legislation...I doubt it. The Missouri Senators have proposed 861 pieces of legislation. House Representatives submitted 1684 Bills. These people are not serious.

To research pending bills, review the Bill Summaries available at senate.mo.gov. Click on "Legislation" on the right. In the next screen under "Regular Session," choose "Bill Status Reports." On the page that says "Bills Currently at a Specific Status" at the top, click through the various stages to find the bills that are progressing. From top to bottom beginning with the left column, bills are listed showing the chronological progression of Senate bills. For example, click on "Senate Bills in House Committees" to see that SJR 74 is the only Senate bill that has progressed to that stage of being perfected in the Senate and handed off to the House for assignment to a committee. You can click on the Bill Number to see the Bill Summary and other info such as "Last Action."

Bills initiated in the House, and Senate Bills being worked on in the house can be researched at house.mo.gov. Click on "Legislation" near the top of the page. Start with "Current Status of House Bills" on the following page. Learning to use these pages takes just a little time and practice. You'll be surprised how much information is easily available.

Electing good people to office is a preliminary step to securing good government. We must realize (and convince them) that they work for us. An apathetic constituency who does not monitor those they elect will lose their freedom. It is perfectly visible at this time in history. . Excellent guidance is available from Conservatives Ron Calzone and Jodi Widhalm. Ron's site is mofirst.org, and Jodi's site is jodigrace.com.

There were three outputs from the caucus process –

1. Choose the Presidential Nominee
2. Elect delegates to Missouri 3rd and 4th Congressional District Conventions and the State Convention
3. Approve proposed amendments for the State Republican Platform

Presidential Nominee - We had 23 voters standing for Nikki Haley, and 298 in the group voting for President Trump. The Haley sub-caucus did not pass the 15% rule and was disbanded. The 15% rule states that any sub-caucus that contains less than 15% of the total voters in the caucus cannot be considered, and voters have one opportunity to choose a different candidate. MAGA rules in Camden County!!

Election of Delegates – We were told in our rules from State GOP that delegates should be recruited and approved by the committee ahead of the caucus. The caucus voters were solicited to vote for the delegate slate presented or take 30 minutes to submit a challenging slate. Given the inexperience in our county, no one submitted a challenging slate. We did not do a good job of explaining that process before presenting the pre-approved slate. The process was clumsy because it was new, but it was good that volunteers to be delegates were pre-selected because we would not have been able to complete a slate in 30 minutes in the moment. The one thing I wish I had mentioned and did not was that the delegates were 100% bound to Trump in the first round of Convention voting. In years when we had a primary instead of a caucus, did any of you participate in the selection of delegates or even know who was chosen? Me either. This was a huge improvement for voter participation. We need to encourage more American First Republicans to engage together, so we all know more sooner.

Platform Amendments - For me, the best part of the Caucus was the approval of the Republican Platform Amendments. Every voter was listening and sharing. It was an excellent opportunity to enjoy smart people talking about important things. Everyone understood the issues, was engaged, and forthcoming with their viewpoints. I was proud to be part of Camden County's Conservative movement.

The National Republican Party is a private club. This club does not bear the same responsibility as a public entity conducting an election. You can be a registered Republican, but if you do not engage with organized Republicans in the county to know one another and enjoy that shared interest, you have an information gap we need to fix...more about that in future issues.

In last month's issue, I listed the county offices to be filled via this year's election. The list included County Coroner. The truth is, we do not have an elected Coroner in Camden County. The County Commission appoints a Medical Examiner. Thank you to the observant reader who advised me.

I also noted in the article that The Public Administrator must be bonded. That was correct but was not information included in the page from the County Clerk's office. They got it right describing the bond for the Treasurer but omitted it from the Public Administrator description.

The window for filing for office in Camden County ends March 23rd.

Both District 1 and District 2 Commissioner seats are up for election. All candidates will be known by the end of March. If you are new to Camden County, be advised that local offices are typically (always) elected via the primary vote in August. Most Republican candidates are unchallenged in the November general election. Get ready to ask the questions necessary to make sure county offices and your money are being professionally managed.

At the January 8th meeting, the County Commission hired a professional financial advisor. All three commissioners approved a contract for the work of doing the job of "shopping" our bonds and advising the county. The very professional gentleman was obviously very smart and very experienced. It was never made clear at the meeting exactly how he gets paid for this fiduciary relationship. We hope the commissioners fully read and understood the contract they approved. The Presiding Commissioner said that because it is a service, they do not have to bid it. The county skipped the competitive bid process, to hire an advisor to help with the competitive bond bid process...because competitive bidding always gets you the best deal. Hmm.

I'm not saying this gentleman is not excellent at his job (he wore the expensive yellow "money guy" tie) but the Commission's brief discussion, motion and vote to enter into a contract at a single meeting seemed hasty. What is the scope of work, including the county's responsibility to provide information to facilitate his work? How do they know there are no other professionals available to at least talk to about doing this work? First in the door may be the best guy, but wouldn't you want to know for sure? The gentleman said the county never pays him directly...but he also said that he gets paid when debt goes out the door. The references to how he gets paid were confusing. Future Sunshine requests will provide insight, but it would be nice if they were clearer, or as they said during election season, "transparent." Ask your commissioner to explain it to you and let me know what you learn.

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