



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI  
Legislative Update  
March 19, 2018

Protect Clean Water

LWV Positions Against HB1973 and SB823

For over fifty years Missouri has protected our water under our own Clean Water Law. Now, under pressure from big agribusiness and the Chamber of Commerce, legislators in Jefferson City are trying to weaken our water protections.

Two pieces of legislation pending in the Missouri Legislature: [House Bill 1973](#) and [Senate Bill 823](#) are designed to reduce the authority of the Department of Natural Resources to regulate water pollution.

Both bills change the language to allow indirect pollution from agricultural operations. Under the proposed bills, if an agricultural or industrial facility threatened our rivers, streams and lakes with rain runoff that flowed through materials spread on its land, the state would not be allowed to act.

This means we would not be able to protect ourselves from potential harm from the misuse of pesticides, fertilizers and other potential pollutants.

Background:

League positions support action that include the Clean Water and Agriculture Positions of the LWVUS. LWVUS Position on Water Resources: Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

The Safe Drinking Water Act in 1986 and the Clean Water Act of 1987 were important milestones in the League's effort to ensure safe drinking water for all Americans and safeguards against nonpoint pollution.

League positions support action to oppose these two bills that threaten the Missouri 185,000 miles of rivers and 286,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs that are currently protected by the Missouri Clean Water Law and the US EPA. Missouri rivers and other bodies of water are used for drinking and to support local economies through fishing and recreation.

Write, email or call you Missouri Representative and Senators to oppose the legislation.

You can find your state representative and senator at this link:

<http://www.senate.mo.gov/legislookup/default.aspx>

## Update on Critical Tax Issues and Budget

Information from the Missouri Budget Project:

HB2540, sponsored by Representative Elijah Haarrh: the fiscal note on this bill shorts General Revenue about \$50 million and is not “revenue neutral.” This bill might help the “fiscal cliff” set to happen with the full implementation of SB 509 in future years (which cuts revenue every year). Here is a link to [HB2540](#):

The hope was that major changes in tax policy would not really happen this year but these two bills – SB617 and SB 509 – bear watching closely when the Legislature reconvenes on March 26.

SB 617, Sen. Eigel’s bill, again a substitute, was debated briefly on the Senate floor on Monday night with some suggestions. Another substitute bill will be coming out as Eigel is working with Senators, even bipartisan, making changes, but it still pokes a huge hole in the budget when fully implemented, maybe even \$450 million.

Details on the Senate bills can be found at this link:

[http://www.senate.mo.gov/18info/BTS\\_Web/BillList.aspx?SessionType=R](http://www.senate.mo.gov/18info/BTS_Web/BillList.aspx?SessionType=R)

Missouri can NOT afford to reduce revenue any more than already done, especially in relation to funding services such as K-12 education, higher education, social services, and healthcare/senior services.