

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF MISSOURI

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LWV Legislative Bulletin **February 10, 2020**

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/>

VOTER ID

HB1600 Sponsored by John Simmons (R) 109, no co-sponsor. On January 30, this bill was referred to Rules/Legislative Oversight.

The next hearing on this bill is Tuesday, February 11, at 9:30 in House Hearing room 4. If you are able to attend the meeting, that would be helpful to demonstrate opposition to this bill.

"In essence, by eliminating non-photo IDs, this measure would attempt to reinstate a strict voter ID requirement (similar to one that was found unconstitutional in *Weinschenk v. State*, 203 S.W.3d 201 (Mo. 2006)). It would require voters to show a non-expired state issued photo ID to vote or cast a provisional ballot, that would only be counted if the voter returned with photo ID or if the voter's signature on the provisional ballot envelope matches the signature on their voter registration."

SENATE ADVANCES ATTACKS ON THE REFORMS OF CLEAN MISSOURI

The Senate gave first round approval (Perfection vote) to Senate Substitute #3 for SJR 38 (Hegeman) on February 4 and is expected to take a final vote early this week. SJR 38 is similar to HJR 76 and HJR 101 and would undermine the redistricting reforms of Amendment 1, also known as CLEAN Missouri. The amended resolution still removes the nonpartisan demographer created under Amendment 1 and increases the power of political party insiders in redistricting decisions. It also opens the possibility of excluding non-citizen or non-voting-age residents from the statewide population data used for drawing districts. The SJR also makes it harder to file suit against a faulty map and limits the remedies available to a judge in such a case. The League opposes SJR 38.

CHARTER SCHOOL EXPANSION

Two charter school expansion bills have been approved by Senate committees and could be taken up soon for Senate debate, perhaps as early as this week. The Senate Government Reform Committee approved SCS/SB 603 (O'Laughlin) on February 3 and the Senate General Laws Committee approved SB 649 (Eigel) on January 28. The bills have roughly similar provisions regarding expansion of charter schools. Both bills would allow charter schools to be sponsored by outside entities (other than the local school board) and operate in districts around the state. (continued)

Charter schools should be subject to the same standards of accountability, transparency and respect for the rights of students, parents and staff as are applicable to traditional public schools. The League supports criteria for governance and operations similar to those of traditional public schools. ***SB 603 and SB 649 do not enact these reforms. Contact your state senator to oppose these bills.***

INITIATIVE PETITION PROCESS

The House Elections and Elected Officials Committee met on February 5 and voted to approve two measures regarding approval of initiative petitions:

HJR 60 (Billington) to require signature collection for initiative petitions to meet signature thresholds in all eight Congressional Districts of the state, rather than the current requirement of at least six of eight Congressional Districts. This requirement would make an already difficult task much harder to complete. ***This measure would make it harder and more costly for citizens to bring forward relevant policies through the initiative process.***

HCS/HJR 97 (Eggleston) to require the sponsor of any initiative petition proposing Constitutional amendments to collect signatures in every Congressional district and then to submit any approved petition to the General Assembly for consideration in a manner similar to a bill. The legislature would be allowed to interfere with the process by passing, amending or blocking the petition. Only a petition approved by the legislature could be approved by a simple majority. Any version not approved by the legislature would have to be approved by a two-thirds supermajority. ***This makes it harder for citizens to bring forward and enact relevant policies.***

Both of these bills have been referred to the House Rules -Legislative Oversight Committee.

“GUNS EVERYWHERE”

SB 663 (Senator Eric Burlison, sponsor) A "Guns Everywhere" bill. This bill modifies provisions relating to the concealed carrying of firearms, allowing guns in hospitals, churches, public universities, day care sites, amusement parks, bars, and meetings of local governments, sporting venues. Counties, cities, or other political subdivision are prohibited from establishing no carry zones. Private property electing to ban concealed carry would have to be posted with 11 by 14 signs.

SB 588 (Senator Eric Burlison, sponsor) This bill is called the Second Amendment Preservation Act. It claims that Missouri does not have to follow any federal law regarding firearms. It prohibits any law enforcement officer in Missouri from complying or enforcing a federal law under threat of termination.

These bills were referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety. A hearing that was set for last week was cancelled due to the weather.

Contact your Senator, even if it is Senator Burlison. Call each member of the Senate Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety. Here is a link to the members of this committee:

<https://www.senate.mo.gov/TRAN/>

The League would oppose these bills based on the LWV Policy statement 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.*