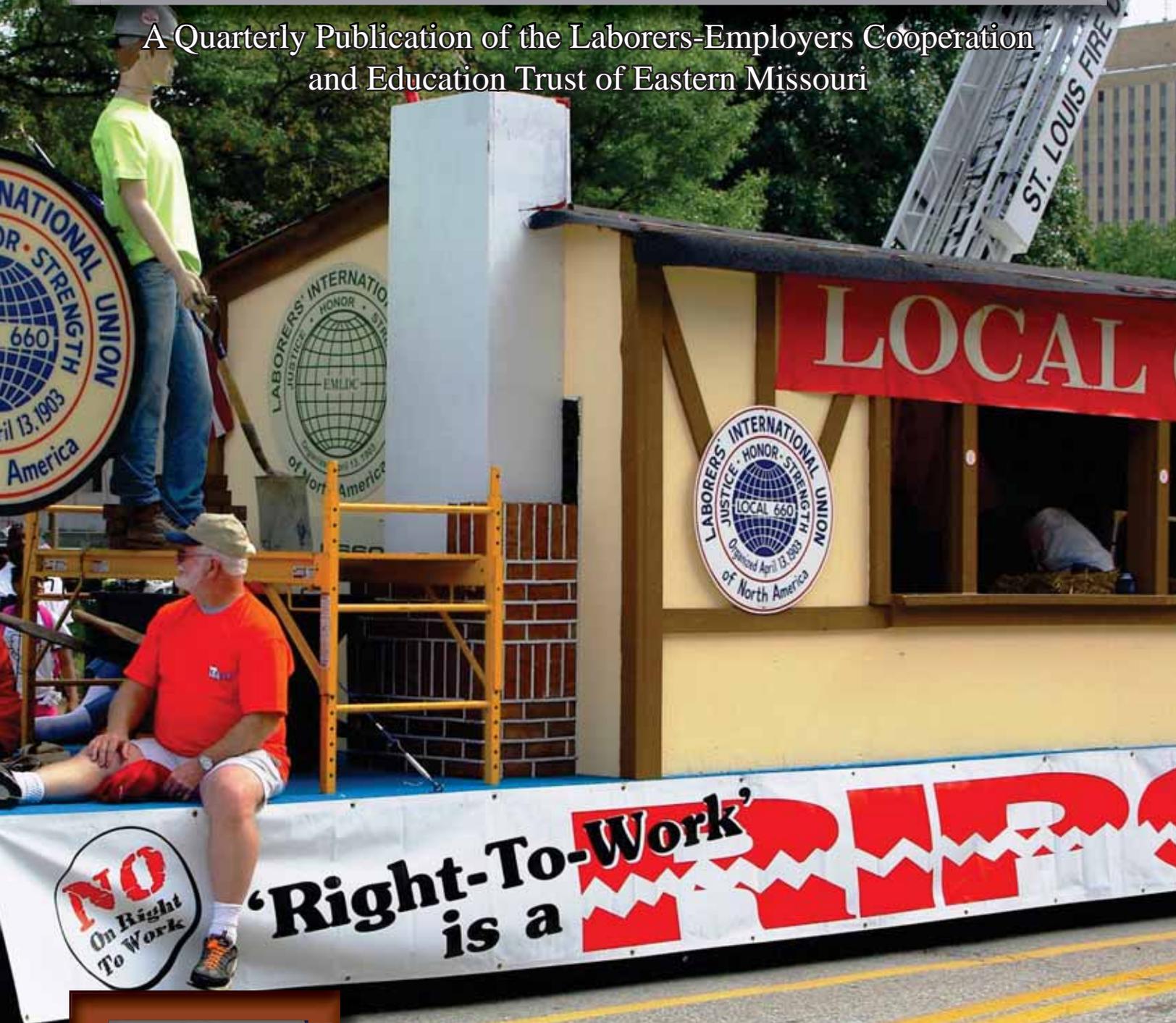


Foundation for Success

A Quarterly Publication of the Laborers-Employers Cooperation
and Education Trust of Eastern Missouri



Volume II, 2014



LECET is a partnership between the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) and its affiliated construction and environmental contractors.

LECET works to generate business opportunities for signatory union contractors and job opportunities for members of LIUNA by improving communications, cooperative relations and efficiency of representatives of labor and management.

Through these actions and others, LECET ensures that signatory construction owners and users understand the benefits of working with LIUNA members and their employers.

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FUTURE OF STATE FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION Is Up In The Air

Amendment 7 Defeat Leaves Supporters With More Questions Than Answers



How to fund Missouri's transportation needs is still undecided following the voters overwhelming rejection of Amendment 7 in August. Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) officials along with construction industry and union representatives are wondering what could be presented to voters that they would accept: creating toll roads out of existing highways, an increase in the fuel (gas and diesel) taxes, raising vehicle registration fees, other sources? What will it take to get the voters to accept some method of paying to improve highways and bridges and start funding mass transit, railway, river port and aviation improvements?

Amendment 7 would have increased the state's sales/use tax by three-quarters of a cent for ten years. The estimated \$5.3 billion raised would have been divided with 90% of the funds going to MoDOT and five percent each to counties and cities for whatever transportation needs they wanted to use it.

Voters rejected Amendment 7 by a 41%-59% vote in August. Amendment 7 opponents argued, successfully, that a sales tax should not be the method used to fund highway and transportation work, rather a method charging the users of highways should be sought. If that were the case, then a fuel tax increase or toll roads would be the most logical

method to use in generating more funding for transportation. Unfortunately, previous polling conducted by highway supporters showed even less voter support for increasing the fuel tax by the amount needed, up to 20 cent per gallon, and even less support for making some highways in Missouri toll roads.

With the Missouri legislative session starting January 1, 2015, there is little talk about what to do for highway funding. Most lawmakers are unwilling to propose another funding proposal after the August election defeat. And while legislators could authorize a small fuel tax increase without voter approval, it is doubtful such a measure would pass the legislature.



In the meantime, highway contractors, Laborers and others who work for highway contractors are left wondering how long they may have work. MoDOT officials said before the August vote that the amount of work the department would have in future years would "dry-up" if Amendment 7 failed. Contractors meanwhile are looking at bidding highway projects outside of Missouri, as a means of staying in business. That would require the Laborers and those contractors who employ them to either travel with their company, or seek work elsewhere.

Meanwhile, Missouri's roads, bridges and other forms of transportation will have to scrape by on what little funding will be available.

Missouri Legislative Veto Session Ends With Record Number of Overrides

While Governor Jay Nixon set a personal record vetoing 33 bills approved by the Missouri Legislature this year, the lawmakers returned the favor in their just concluded veto session September 10.

Lawmakers overturned the governor's veto of 10 bills and 47 line item budget deductions the governor had made to this year's state budget. The number was a record for overrides of a governor's veto.

None of the bills, either vetoed by the governor or overridden by the legislators, had any direct bearing on all Laborers. One bill approved earlier this year by the legislature and vetoed by the governor would have adjusted the unemployment benefits paid to workers. Senate Bill 673 sponsored by Sen. Mike Kehoe, R-Jefferson City would have tied the number of weeks an unemployed worker could receive benefits to the overall state unemployment rate as opposed to a fix number of weeks. For example, if the unemployment rate was 8.5% to 9%, a full 20 weeks of benefits would be available.



The Senate voted to override the governor's veto of S.B. 673, but there were not enough House votes and the governor's veto was kept in place. State legislators did override the governor on 47 different budget reductions (line item vetoes) Nixon made to this year's state budget. The governor had cut the money from the budget contending lawmakers had "over spent" what was available after numerous tax credits had passed, but lawmakers claimed the governor had vetoed the money just because he was



mad about the votes on the tax credits and easily restored most of the money that was cut.

For deer hunters, the governor's veto of a bill that would have given the state agriculture department authority to regulate captive deer ranches instead of the department of conservation was left in place... by one vote. Lawmakers had passed the bill to voice their frustration with the Missouri Conservation Department, but in the end, the conservation department supporters won.

One of the more contentious issues during the veto session and one which may have long lasting effects on legislative relations in 2015 was the lawmakers' override of an abortion waiting bill. The law requires women seeking an abortion to waiting 72 hours after consulting with a doctor before proceeding. The old law set the waiting period at 24-hours. What was so contentious was that the Senate ended debate on the bill by calling for an immediate vote, the PQ, and thus ending all debate.

Democratic senators, upset with the use of the PQ to vote on the abortion bill, have said they plan to slow down the legislative process even more than usual when the Missouri General Assembly begins a new session in January. And, Laborers always watch to see if the Senate tries to PQ any legislation dealing with right-to-work or prevailing wage.

OFFICERS ELECTED TO EASTERN MISSOURI LABORERS' DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gary Elliott and Perri Pryor were unanimously reelected to their offices on the Eastern Missouri Laborers' District Council (EMLDC) in recent elections held by the Council delegates. Elliott begins his second term as Business Manager of the Council. Pryor will also serve a second term as Secretary/Treasurer. The terms run for four years.

Rick McGuire, Business Manager of Laborers' Local 1104 was elected Council president.

PICTURED AT LEFT, MEMBERS OF THE EMLDC RECENTLY HELD OFFICER ELECTIONS.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT IN THE PHOTO ARE;
BRAD TURNER, DELEGATE FROM LOCAL 840,
LOCAL 830 BUSINESS MANAGER TRENT ELY,
COUNCIL PRESIDENT & LOCAL 1104 BUSINESS MANAGER
RICK MCGUIRE, LOCAL 840 BUSINESS MANAGER JIMMY
SPARKS, EMLDC SECRETARY/TREASURER PERRI PRYOR
(AT PODIUM), LOCAL 955 BUSINESS MANAGER IAN
BEDELL, EMLDC BUSINESS MANAGER GARY ELLIOTT,
LOCAL 53 BUSINESS MANAGER CHARLIE BEAN, BUSINESS
MANAGER RICKY KLINE LOCAL 829,
AND LOCAL 42 BUSINESS MANAGER BRANDON FLINN.

Slight Improvement in Missouri's Unemployment

Missouri's unemployment rate dropped ever so slightly in August. Figures released by the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) showed the unemployment rate dropped two-tenths of one percent from July to August, 6.5% to 6.3%. September's figures won't be known for a couple of weeks.

July saw a large jump in the number of new jobs created in the state, 12,700. The construction

industry helped lead this increase with 2,500 jobs created. Other increases were noted in manufacturing and utilities. Despite August drop in the unemployment rate, DED reported a loss of 3,100 jobs in Missouri.

Perhaps the economy is improving, very slowly.

LABOR DAY 2014



Despite threatening skies, Laborers turned out in force at Labor Day parades in eastern Missouri this year.

St. Louis has one of the largest Labor Day parades in the country and this year was no exception with close to 400 Laborers from locals 42, 53, 110 and 660 marching in downtown St. Louis. The parade this year celebrated the city of St. Louis' 250th birthday.

A week later, the central Missouri Labor Day parade was held in Jefferson City. Laborers from locals 662 and 955 walked in the parade which passed right by the State Capitol building.

Laborers participating in both parades stressed bringing out their families members to march and many of them did exactly that. Additionally, many of the locals decorated floats or trucks and entered them in the parades.



MEMBERS FROM LOCALS 42 (LEFT) & LOCAL 53 (BELOW) ENJOYED THE ST. LOUIS CITY LABOR DAY PARADE





**ABOVE AND BELOW
LOCAL 662 & 955
MEMBERS ALONG WITH THEIR
FRIENDS & FAMILY MARCH IN
JEFFERSON CITY**



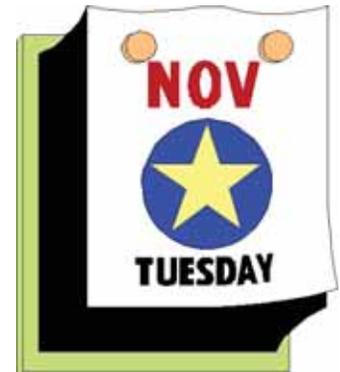
**LABORERS FROM
LOCAL 660 (ABOVE) & LOCAL 110
RETIRES (BELOW) PARTICIPATE IN THE
ST. LOUIS CITY PARADE**



**(ABOVE) A THUMBS UP FROM
PARTICIPANTS IN THE JEFFERSON CITY
LABOR DAY PARADE**

WHAT TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 4, 2014 ... THE GENERAL ELECTION!

This is an off year election; by that, it means there are not a lot of big issues or competitive candidate races on the November 4 general election ballot. However, that should not stop you or any of your family members from going to the polls that day and vote on those candidates and issues presented to you. Everyone needs to get in the habit of voting at every single election, regardless if there are one or one hundred items on the ballot.



Every member of Missouri's Congressional delegation is up for reelection this fall. Six of the eight Congressional districts in Missouri are located either totally or partially within the Eastern Missouri Laborers' District Council boundaries.

The Congressional candidates and their political parties are:

1 st District	William "Lacey" Clay	Democrat-Incumbent
1 st District	Martin Baker	Republican
1 st District	Robb Cunningham	Libertarian
2 nd District	Arthur Lieber	Democrat
2 nd District	Ann Wagoner	Republican-Incumbent
2 nd District	Bill Slantz	Libertarian
3 rd District	Courtney Denton	Democrat
3 rd District	Blaine Luetkemeyer	Republican-Incumbent
3 rd District	Steven Hedrick	Libertarian
4 th District	Nate Irvin	Democrat
4 th District	Vicky Hartzler	Republican-Incumbent
6 th District	Bill Hedge	Democrat
6 th District	Sam Graves	Republican-Incumbent
6 th District	Russ Monchit	Libertarian
8 th District	Barbara Stocker	Democrat
8 th District	Jason Smith	Republican-Incumbent
8 th District	Rick Vandeven	Libertarian

Missouri voters will also be asked to choose who they want to represent them in the Missouri House of Representatives. All 163 state representatives are up for election. And half the Missouri Senate will be chosen in the November 4 election.

Cont'd on next page...

Four constitutional amendments also will appear on the November ballot. If approved, these measures would become part of the state's constitution.



Amendment 2 deals with criminal court proceedings and would allow a prosecutor to present prior criminal acts of an accused person when the charges deal with criminal sexual offenses and the victim or victims are 18 years old and younger.

Amendment 3 involves evaluations of public schools teachers. The proposal would require public school teachers be evaluated based on their performance as teachers. Performance standards would be set by the public school boards and then approved by the state board of education. Such evaluations would be used in determining whether or not to keep or fire the teacher.

The real issue on Amendment 3 is the removal of teacher tenure. Tenure is the job security public school teachers have against administrators randomly just getting rid of teachers. In this case, public school boards, administrators and teachers have all banded together to oppose Amendment 3. The group that initially proposed this amendment has since pulled it's backing citing a lack of public support as demonstrated in public opinion polls.

Amendment 6 is the early voting amendment. This proposal would allow any registered voter to cast a ballot, in person or by mail, up to six business days prior to any General Election. Again, this only applies to general elections, like the election to be held in November and only if the Missouri legislature appropriates money to fund the early vote.

Because of the limitations placed on the early voting proposal, such as subject to appropriation by the General Assembly and only allowed in general elections, some groups question whether or not this is true early voting in Missouri. Under current state law, the only way to vote early is by absentee voting.

The final constitutional amendment Missourians will be voting on is **Amendment 10**. This amendment is intended to place some restrictions on the governor in terms of the state budget. The amendment requires the governor to pay the public debt first when putting together a budget, prohibits the governor from proposing a budget based on legislation not yet passed by the legislature and limits the governor's ability to withhold money already appropriated by the legislature for public education and other state services.

Lawmakers proposed this amendment after being upset with Governor Jay Nixon and his frequent withholds of state money for services. Nixon, for his part, said he was forced to withhold money in the state budget because the legislature passed too many tax breaks and credits which in turn would reduce state revenues.

Each amendment requires only a simple majority for passage.

**DON'T FORGET....
GO VOTE NOVEMBER 4**

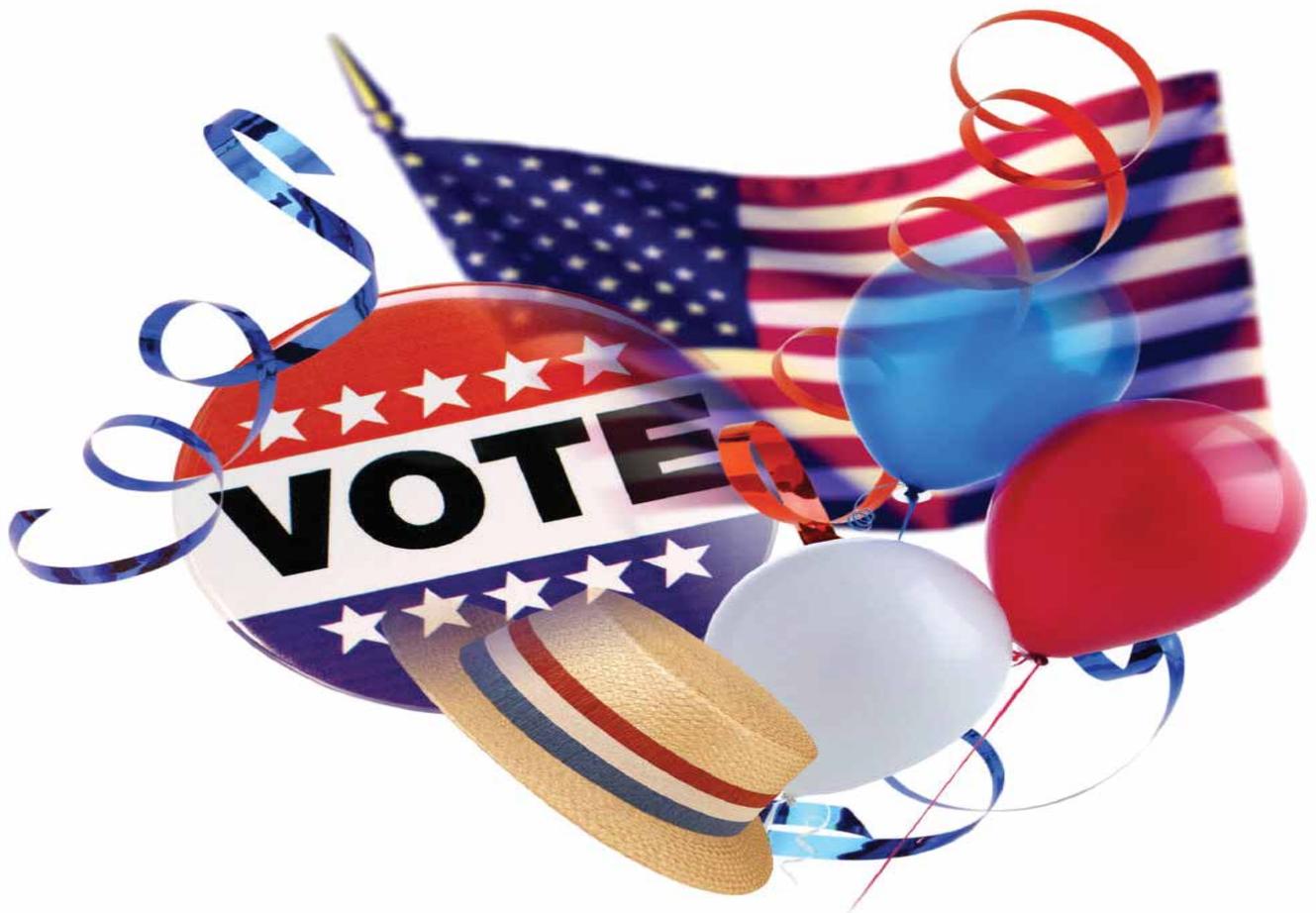


The November 4 General Election is Right Around the Corner...

Are You Ready?

Think there is not much to vote on this
November 4? Think again!

Any time you have the chance to vote you
should be taking advantage of it.





This November, Missourians will be deciding who their elected representatives will be in:

- The U.S. House of Representatives
- The Missouri Senate
- The Missouri House of Representatives
- Various County offices such as Presiding Commissioner or County Executive and other county offices
- And , many other local offices.

Still think this election is not important? Two years ago, a Missouri House District was won by one vote...one vote!

Every vote does matter. That is why you need to vote in every election you can. And, remember, if you don't vote, your complaints about the way things are in Washington, D.C. or in Jefferson City are weak because YOU didn't do anything about it.

GO VOTE November 4, 2014!

