

VOTERS GUIDE

Leader

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 115

Buchheit-Courtway, Nugent seeking open seat

Editor's note

The *Leader* presents its Voters Guide for the Nov. 3 general election, with information on people running in contested races for the U.S. and Missouri House of Representatives. A number of county-wide offices, as well as seats on the Jefferson County Council, are not contested this fall. Information on ballot propositions also are included. This information also is posted on our website at myleaderpaper.com.

The race is down to two to determine who will succeed Elaine Freeman Gannon as the District 115 representative in the Missouri House of Representatives.

Gannon, a Republican from of De Soto, was prohibited from running for a fifth two-year term in the House because of the state's term limit standards. She is a candidate for the Missouri Senate's District 3.

Cyndi Buchheit-Courtway of the Festus area won a three-way race in the Republican Party's primary election in August, which set her up to face Cynthia D. Nugent of Bloomsdale in the Nov. 3 general election.

Nugent ran unopposed in the Democratic Party's primary.

District 115 includes parts of south Jefferson County, northwest Ste. Genevieve County and northern St. Francois County.

State representatives serve two-year terms. The pay is \$35,915 per year, a weekly allowance for miles traveled going to and returning from meetings, and expenses for each day the General Assembly is in session.

BUCHHEIT-COURTWAY, 44, lives in the Festus area. She and her husband, David, have five children and 15 grandchildren. She is a health information services specialist at Mercy Hospital Jefferson in Crystal City and also works part-time at Enterprise Bank and Trust.

A 1994 graduate of St. Vincent de Paul High School, she earned an associate degree from Jefferson College in 2018.

Social media: *Facebook:* Buchheit-CourtwayForMissouri *Website:* www.cyndi4missouri.com

NUGENT, 55, lives in Bloomsdale with her husband, Bob. She recently partially retired from Sunshine Drapery in Sunset Hills after working in the window treatment business for more than 20 years. She also worked for the Ste. Genevieve School District and had a poultry house with 16,500 hens. A graduate of Ste. Genevieve High School, she also attended Jefferson R-7 schools.

What experience do you have (elected office, civic organizations, volunteer work, etc.) that might serve you well in this position?

Buchheit-Courtway: I have been active with and advocated for several organizations, including the 67 Gun Club,



Cyndi Buchheit-Courtway



Cynthia Nugent

Festus-Crystal City Conservation Club and several Republican and conservative clubs. I have been a Sunday School teacher and have been involved in children's ministries. I have helped numerous candidate campaigns. I have created budgets, have board member and officer experience, managed treasury funds, and have been a leader of people.

Nugent: I am a Democratic committeeperson, Democratic Club past president, am a past state committeewoman and past legislative member of the Missouri National Education Association. I am president of the Ste. Genevieve County Library Board. I have attended three Democratic national conventions.

Should the General Assembly pass legislation to allow counties, cities and other local jurisdictions to join the state in collecting sales taxes from internet purchases? Why or why not?

Buchheit-Courtway: I generally do not support additional taxes but this

is a unique subject. Sales tax laws were implemented long before the internet. Small businesses account for two-thirds of new jobs. Most people want to support small businesses. Small business owners state that the lack of sales tax on internet purchases harms them. Before implementing a sales tax on internet sales, I would want to look seriously at reducing personal property taxes. I do not support eliminating personal property taxes. I support a phased-out approach that would reduce tax assessed to zero after a certain amount of years.

Nugent: Yes, we should all have to pay our taxes. That would be fair to all our brick-and-mortar businesses. This would be healthy competition. More choices for the shoppers. Maybe they can't get out, but now they have more selection.

Where should the state budget be cut to make up for unexpected expenses incurred to respond to the novel coronavirus pandemic? What should not be cut?

Buchheit-Courtway: After the pandemic hit, Gov. Parson was forced to withhold more than \$448 million from the budget. Expenditures for education, health and senior services, mental health, social services and transportation exceed 80 percent of the budget. No matter where you cut, it is painful. Before additional cuts, we should stop spending on new or expanded programs until the situation

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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 113

Shaul faces challenge to serve final term in House

Dan Shaul faces a challenge in his bid to serve a fourth consecutive two-year term representing District 113 in the Missouri House of Representatives.

In the Nov. 3 general election, Shaul, a Republican from Imperial, will square off against Democratic challenger Terry Burgess of Barnhart.

Both ran unopposed in their party's August primary election.

Because of the state's term limit standards, if Shaul wins, it will be his last term in the state House.

District 113 covers northeast Jefferson County.

State representatives are paid \$35,915 per year, a weekly allowance for miles traveled going to and returning from meetings, and expenses for each day the General Assembly is in session.



Dan Shaul



Terry Burgess

SHAUL, 51, lives in Imperial. He and his wife, Kim, have three children. He is the state director of the Missouri Grocers Association. He studied aviation technology at Parks College.

BURGESS, 38, lives in Barnhart. He and his wife, Jessica, have a daughter. He is a union construction laborer for Laborers Local 110. He is a 2001 graduate of

Windsor High School and attended South County Technical School.

Social media: *Website:* upballot.com/terry-burgess *Facebook:* Burgess-4Missouri

What experience do you have (elected office, civic organizations, volunteer work, etc.) that might serve you well in this position?

Shaul: I have been involved in the community in many ways. I serve on the Windsor C-1 Board of Education and was active in the Windsor Freer Parents Association. I have been active in the Boy Scouts and I have served on the council of the church which we attend.

Burgess: I worked on the right-to-work campaign and collected thousands of signatures to put it on the ballot and voted no on Right to Work. I also vol-

unteer a lot of my free time to help the homeless, including homeless veterans.

Should the General Assembly pass legislation to allow counties, cities and other local jurisdictions to join the state in collecting sales taxes from internet purchases? Why or why not?

Shaul: It is very important to ensure that the vital services that we expect and depend on from local and state governments have the resources to perform these services. This can and should be accomplished by ensuring that the internet purchases are treated the same as if they were purchased at the local neighborhood brick-and-mortar stores that have supported our communities for years.

Burgess: I do not think the General

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Absentee and mail-in ballots must be in the County Clerk's Office by 7 p.m. on Election Day to be counted.



Who's who for the Nov. 3 election

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 111

Roden faces challenge from Cherry for fourth term

If Shane Roden of Cedar Hill is to win a fourth term representing District 111 in the Missouri House of Representatives in the Nov. 3 general election, the Republican first must turn back a challenge from Democrat Daniel (Vern) Cherry of Dittmer.

If Roden wins a fourth two-year term, it will be his last as state representatives cannot serve more than eight years under term limits standards.

Both ran unopposed in August in their parties' primary elections.

Roden did not return a *Leader* candidate questionnaire.

The district includes northwestern Jefferson County.

State senators and representatives receive a \$35,915 annual salary plus mileage and \$115 per day in expenses for each day the General Assembly is in session.

CHERRY, 92, lives in Dittmer. He has two children and four grandchildren.

He is retired after 52 years as a self-employed dentist, including 22 years as a part-time dental instructor at the Southern Illinois University at Alton

School of Dental Medicine. He received a doctorate degree in dental science from St. Louis University in 1953.

Social media:
Facebook: Vern Cherry

What experience do you have (elected office, civic organizations, volunteer work, etc.) that might serve you well in this position?

Cherry: I am a current board member of Jefferson County 911 Dispatch. I served eight years on the Jefferson County Health Department Board of Trustees and I tutored students at Northwest High School in math for a year.

Should the General Assembly pass legislation to allow counties, cities and other local jurisdictions to join the state in collecting sales taxes from internet purchases? Why or why not?



Daniel (Vern) Cherry

Cherry: Yes, internet purchases should be taxed the same as purchases from the brick-and-mortar stores they compete against. The internet sellers aren't contributing to the local economy through employment taxes, business or local taxes.

Where should the state budget be cut to make up for unexpected expenses incurred to respond to the novel coronavirus pandemic? What should not be cut?

Cherry: I think COVID-19 is a national issue, not a state issue, and funds should be issued on that basis. Many have lost health insurance due to layoffs, which is another issue that should be dealt with on a national basis.

How would you assess the state government's response to the coronavirus pandemic? What would you have done or what would you do differently?

Cherry: Poor. Complete failure to recognize that it was a respiratory disease and that facemasks are a simple way to avoid it.

What is your stance on Constitutional Amendment No. 3, which would repeal portions of the "Clean Missouri" initiative overwhelmingly approved by voters in 2018?

Cherry: The voters' 2018 ballot decision should stand. Republicans are assuming totalitarian-style government. In my years serving in the Navy, I lived in countries with that form of government, and believe me, we do not want to go down that road. Gerrymandering destroys democracy.

Why should voters elect you to this position? List your goals, if elected.

Cherry: I have served my profession and Jefferson County honestly for many years.

On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the strongest, how would you rate your support of your party's nominee for president? Explain your reasoning.

Cherry: 1. He has experience. He has endured personal tragedies and endured in a positive manner. He served well under President Obama.

District 115

Continued from Page 1

stabilizes. Each bill proposed in the General Assembly has a fiscal note describing projected costs, but there should be a financial analysis to review the actual cost of bills that were passed compared with the projected cost.

Nugent: Stop giving tax breaks, even if they are temporary, to get the budget back on track. This is hard to say right now because so many people have lost jobs but taxing internet sales would have helped the state.

Do not take funding from education. This pandemic has shown how hard it is on our schools. Some children do not have the necessary tools to learn from home, teachers are stressed enough, some have to use their own money for necessary supplies to help the students, and they are not always reimbursed.

How would you assess the state government's response to the coronavirus pandemic? What would you have done or what would you do differently?

Buchheit-Courtway: I appreciate the state government allocating \$521 million of federal CARES Act funding swiftly to the counties to distribute to local governments. This amounted to more than \$36 million for Jefferson, St. Francois and Ste. Genevieve counties combined. I appreciate the governor and state officials working with and consulting with medical professionals

and experts during these unprecedented times. I want to thank the state and local government officials, medical professionals and all of the front-line workers who have tried to help us navigate through this time. Second guessing at this time would not be productive.

Nugent: Our government did not show guidance or direction in slowing this pandemic down early enough. The necessary precautions were not put in place to prevent this. Look at how bad it is now. I hope we can see an improvement sooner than later. I highly suggest wearing masks, washing your hands frequently, social distancing if you have to go out and staying home if possible.

What is your stance on Constitutional Amendment No. 3, which would repeal portions of the "Clean Missouri" initiative overwhelmingly approved by voters in 2018?

Buchheit-Courtway: Amendment No. 1 in 2018 was originally ruled unconstitutional because it addressed too many issues. An appeals court overturned that decision. Most of the issues made sense and I supported them. However, the troubling part of the amendment was the issue of redistricting, which many people did not know was included or did not understand the potential outcome. The constitutional amendment changed the redistricting of legislative districts from a bipartisan commission to a state demographer

recommended by the state auditor. It also changed the criteria for district boundaries. Some have argued that we could have districts very geographically out of balance.

Nugent: Vote no on Constitutional Amendment No. 3. We have voiced our opinion and voted already. Why must we let this be changed now? Leave it alone. It is nonpartisan now. What is wrong with that?

Why should voters elect you to this position? List your goals, if elected.

Buchheit-Courtway: I have real-life experiences in this district. I have worked, raised a family, volunteered, paid taxes, supported business and civic organizations. I have a heart to serve. I want to be a true representative of the people. I will fight for their voices to be heard. I am willing to speak for those who feel that they have no voice. I am pro-life, from conception to the natural end of life, pro-Second Amendment, pro-jobs, pro-seniors, pro-students. I want to find solutions and resources for mental health awareness and prevention of suicide, which has devastated too many families.

Nugent: I will speak up for education and the future of our children. We should all be able to have affordable health care. Unions need our support; they have been the backbone for working people. I am against right-to-work legislation because it's intended to weaken unions.

My husband was a member of the United Steelworkers Union and I am a past member of the Missouri National Education Association legislative committee.

On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the strongest, how would you rate your support of your party's nominee for president? Explain your reasoning.

Buchheit-Courtway: My support for President Trump is a 1. He supports law enforcement and law and order in our communities, is a defender of life, liberty and the Second Amendment. He has instituted reforms in the Veterans Administration system.

Before the pandemic, we had record employment with a record-high stock market. President Trump did away with the North American Free Trade Agreement. Sen. Biden voted for and supported this agreement. This trade deal destroyed many good-paying union jobs in this country, especially in the auto industry.

Nugent: With 1 being the strongest, I fully support Joe Biden. He has the decency and integrity. He knows about government and he believes in a better government for all of us. I have met him more than once. He sat down with me and my husband and we talked about our families, shared pictures and stories of our lives. He still remembers us when we are in a crowd, and will still walk over and acknowledge us, if only for a brief moment.



Who's who for the Nov. 3 election

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 110

Kiehne tries to block Bailey from second term



Dottie Bailey

John Kiehne

Dottie Bailey is seeking her second two-year term representing District 110 in the Missouri House of Representatives, but the Republican will face a Democratic opponent who will try to prevent that bid in the Nov. 3 general election.

Two years ago, Bailey won the seat that was vacated when Kirk Mathews opted against running for a third term.

Both ran unopposed in August in their parties' primary elections.

The 110th District takes in southwest St. Louis County including Eureka and parts of Wildwood and parts of eastern Franklin County including most of Pacific.

State senators and representatives receive a \$35,915 annual salary plus mileage and \$115 per day in expenses for each day the General Assembly is in session.

BAILEY, 46, lives in Eureka. She has two children. She works for Mortgage Solutions Financial. She received a bachelor's degree from Eastern Illinois University in 1997. She has been on the St. Louis Mortgage Bankers Board of Governors since 2017, the board of the St. Louis Tea Party Coalition since 2015,

Social media: *Website:* dottiebailey.com

KIEHNE, 53, lists his address in Pacific. He and his wife, Michelle, have four children and three grandchildren. He is a musician and small business owner who was a touring musician before the pandemic and is now focusing on producing and marketing digital content. He attended the University of Missouri-St. Louis and Webster University.

Social media: *Website:* johnkiehne.com *Facebook:* John Kiehne for State Representative *Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, Snapchat:* @johnkiehne-formo

What experience do you have (elected office, civic organizations, volunteer work, etc.) that might serve you well in this position?

Bailey: I've been in the banking business most of my career. In 2010, the Dodd-Frank Act was passed, and the Consumer Finance Protection Board was formed, which was not a check top help the consumer but hurt many through massive regulation. I teamed up with the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C., to form the Real Estate Sentinel Program, which is pushing back on this massive regulating bureaucratic giant.

Kiehne: Not only have I worked as a small businessperson for 35 years, I've spent the last 13 years as a foster provider, advocate and guardian for at-risk and traumatized children and adults. I'm also on the board of Heartland Independent Living Center, which provides in-home services to the disabled in Franklin, Gasconade and Maries counties.

Should the General Assembly pass legislation to allow counties, cities and other local jurisdictions to join the state in collecting sales taxes from internet purchases? Why or why not?

Bailey: I support a split position for the Wayfair tax. Yes, cities and other local jurisdictions should be helped, especially now in this day of COVID-19 but a portion should go back to tax-paying citizens in the form of income tax reductions.

Kiehne: I believe that Missouri should pass the Wayfair Tax for taxing internet sales in our state. Not only does our state need to bring in more revenue to cover costs – especially during the global health crisis that we're currently experiencing – but taxing internet sales would also help to level the playing field for small businesses, which must charge sales taxes on their products.

Where should the state budget be cut to make up for unexpected expenses incurred to respond to the novel coronavirus pandemic? What should not be cut?

Bailey: There are numerous bureaucracies that I have found just produces more problems than they solve. I would recommend a 10 percent to 20 percent decrease in salaries for bureaucrats. I include myself in this equation. Our programs for the disabled, education and other quality-of-life-sustaining programs need to be kept in place.

Kiehne: Missouri was short on revenue and underfunding critical responsibilities before the coronavirus hit. In recent years we've slipped into the basement for revenue per citizen compared with other states while underfunding our public schools, falling nearly \$900 million short yearly to fix our roads and bridges and cutting services for our poor, handicapped and elderly. Missouri has some of the worst-paid teachers and state workers in the U.S. while allowing our rural and urban communities to falter and decay. Tax incentives and tax cuts for the wealthy have starved our budget for years and now we're paying for it.

How would you assess the state government's response to the coronavirus pandemic? What would you have done or what would you do differently?

Bailey: Considering no one antici-

pated this virus and things had to move quickly, I'll give the response a fair mark. As time has moved forward, I see too much power laying in the hands of just a few people using emergency powers. I would advocate a reform such as the governor can issue an emergency order for 30 days unless approved by 2/3rds of the House and Senate. Same for broad stay-at-home orders by local governments. There is too much potential for abuse with no reasonable process to protect against arbitrary picking of winners and losers, as we have seen.

Kiehne: Missouri has done a poor job of addressing COVID-19. It was slow to act, its actions have been insufficient and officials have been inconsistent in their messaging, lacking in a robust coordinated strategy, and they've consistently passed on responsibility to counties and municipalities. I would have immediately began working to establish access to free testing statewide, created a network to conduct contact tracing and made sure that those who have been infected isolate until they have recovered and aren't contagious. We needed a clear, consistent strategy of encouraging masking, social distancing and proper hygiene practices.

What is your stance on Constitutional Amendment No. 3, which would repeal portions of the "Clean Missouri" initiative overwhelmingly approved by voters in 2018?

Bailey: Clean Missouri in 2018 was sold as a Trojan horse to the public in an initiative petition as reform to lobbyists gifts to politicians. But what is really did was took the current form of drawing legislative districts, which is done by a bipartisan commission, and gave it to a singular auditor appointed demographer. Amendment 3 would put that power back into the hands of the bipartisan commission and also completely ban lobbyists gifts, which Clean Missouri in 2018 failed to do.

Kiehne: I support efforts to eliminate gerrymandering, the influence of money and the influence of lobbyists in Missouri government. The voters approved Clean Missouri in 2018 and I believe that they are smart enough to know what they voted for, despite Republican politicians' assertions otherwise. The Missouri motto is "Let the Welfare of the People be the Supreme Law" and our government shouldn't be used as a means to disenfranchise voters for the benefit of a select group of people.

Why should voters elect you to this position? List your goals, if elected.

Bailey: I have been endorsed by the Missouri Fraternal Order of Police, the Missouri Police Chiefs Association, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association, the National Rifle Association (with an

A rating) and Missouri Right to Life. I will always stand for law. A thin blue line separates peace and anarchy in our country. I fully support our police in these critical days.

Kiehne: My mission is to make Missouri a place that we can be proud to call home; a state that's known for high-quality schools, good-paying jobs, safe neighborhoods, access to affordable healthcare and safe communities, where residents can feel confident that justice will be served equally, without privilege or discrimination. We must fully fund our schools and pay our teachers a competitive salary. We must make healthcare accessible and affordable. We must create an environment in which our workers can earn a living wage while businesses prosper, and we must protect our workers from efforts to lower wages and benefits.

On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the strongest, how would you rate your support of your party's nominee for president? Explain your reasoning.

Bailey: I'm at a 1 with President Trump. He stands for law and order, pushes back on the D.C. establishment like no other and puts America first like we haven't seen in decades.

Kiehne: 1. While an integral part of politics is voting for your favorite candidate, we're also voting for a platform of policy goals and preferences. As a Democratic candidate, I represent our party's support for the working class and small businesses, the right for workers to organize and collectively bargain, every American's need for access to affordable healthcare, the need to protect our environment and the fight for justice for every American citizen, including women, minorities, the disabled, the elderly, the infirm, the poor and the LGBTQ community. Joe Biden supports and will promote these priorities.

Election info

Polls throughout Missouri open promptly at 6 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. All voters standing in line at 7 p.m. will be allowed to cast a ballot.

If you are unsure if you are registered to vote or have any other election-related questions, call the Jefferson County Clerk's Office at 636-797-5486 or the St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners at 314-615-1851.



Who's who for the Nov. 3 election

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 2

Wagner faces two challengers for fifth term

Ann Wagner is seeking a fifth two-year term as Missouri's 2nd District representative in the U.S. House of Representatives.

To get back to Washington, D.C., Wagner will have to defeat in the Nov. 3 general election Democrat Jill Schupp of Creve Coeur and Libertarian Martin V. Schulte of Ballwin.

All ran unopposed in their parties' respective primary elections in August.

The district covers a small portion of northeastern Jefferson County and extends across most of St. Louis County and into St. Charles County.

U.S. representatives are paid \$174,000 per year.

WAGNER, 58, lists her address as Ballwin. She and her husband, Ray, have three children and one grandchild. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in logistics from University of Missouri in Columbia.

Social media: *Website:* annwagner.com *Twitter:* @AnnLWagner *Facebook:* Ann4Congress

SCHUPP, 65, lists her address as Creve Coeur. She and her husband, Mark, have two children. She is in her second term as the District 24 state senator and previously served three terms in the Missouri House of Representatives. She also has been elected to the Creve Coeur City Council and Ladue School District Board of Education. She is a graduate of Parkway North High School and the University of Missouri in Columbia. She received a teaching certificate from the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Social media: *Website:* JillSchupp.com *Twitter:* @JillSchupp *Instagram:* @JillSchuppforCongress *Facebook:* ElectJillSchupp

SCHULTE, 44, lives in Ballwin. He and his wife, Amy, have four children. He is employed at a functional specialist and adviser at TechGuard Security LLC and served in the U.S. Navy. He has a master's degree in human resources and organizational development at University of Louisville and a bachelor's degree in workforce education and Training from Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Social media: *Facebook:* facebook.com/mvschulte *Website:* martinvschulte.com

What experience do you have (elected office, civic organizations, volunteer work, etc.) that might serve you well in this position?

Wagner: I was born and raised in the district, where I have spent my life giving back to the community through volunteering, community service and political organizing. My first job was at my parents' carpet store, learning about hard work, customer service and how

government should stay off the backs of hard-working Americans. I applied these values to my career in the private sector and with grassroots organizations as a committeewoman in Lafayette Township.

Schupp: While my sons were in school, I noticed the lack of air conditioning left students struggling to concentrate. No one stepped up to solve the problem. I took action. I ran for school board and won. Since then, my desire to help my community has put me on a path of public service, to the Creve Coeur City Council, the state House and the State Senate, where every bill I've passed has had bipartisan support.

Schulte: A vast majority of my experience working in the government has been through the Department of Defense (25 years).

How would you grade the federal government's response to the coronavirus pandemic? What would you have done or what would you do differently?

Wagner: We have learned that we need more resources and public engagement to quickly implement testing, contact tracing and isolation protocols, while promoting social distancing and avoiding harmful shutdowns. I'm developing these lessons into practices that will improve our public health readiness and keep Missouri's families safe. I've introduced legislation to expand telehealth services, protect nursing home residents, improve health security, address mental health, shore up U.S. supply of treatments and improve the national strategic stockpile. Despite room for improvement, I'm proud of the government's fastest-ever progress on a vaccine, treatments and building a testing regime from scratch.

Schupp: Missourians are still at risk and many are struggling to make ends meet. The federal government must step up and deliver relief to those who need it most, not big corporations and the well-connected. We need to significantly increase our investments in testing, tracing and treatment. If elected, as I've done throughout my time in public service, I will work across the aisle to find bipartisan solutions that help working families. Congress must come together to pass another relief bill that reflects the needs of the American people and allocates resources needed to both save lives and jump-start the economy.

Schulte: I'd give it a C-. Congress has done a poor job releasing taxes back to the people of this country. It is bad enough that people have lost their jobs,



Ann Wagner



Jill Schupp



Martin V. Schulte

businesses and houses. The latest CARES debacle is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to make people more reliant on government assistance.

There's always talk about instituting term limits for members of Congress. Would term limits be a good thing or a bad thing, and why?

Wagner: I support a constitutional amendment to limit the number of years members can serve, though without this being passed, the most important piece of this conversation is whether representatives continue to learn from their constituents and effectively speak up for them. Some members become part of the swamp or stop representing their constituents' interests. In fact, many Democratic members have refused to vote or talk with constituents in person this year. But I fly home immediately after votes to listen directly to the community and learn how I can best represent you.

Schupp: In Jefferson City, I've seen firsthand how term limits can create a revolving door between people who serve in the legislature and lobbyists. Regardless of what one thinks of term limits, it is clear that Ann Wagner's political career needs to come to an end. She's spent her political career cozying up to special interests and big corporations and has turned her back on Missouri families. She needs to be held accountable for these choices.

Schulte: Term limits are a good thing. Term limits allow people with fresh ideas to partake in the legislative process. Not everyone votes and members of Congress are mostly elected by pluralities.

How should Congress respond to calls to improve social justice?

Wagner: Congress must ensure all people are treated with dignity and respect by law enforcement. That's why I voted for the Justice Act, which increases transparency and accountability for the use of force. We're blessed to have brave people serving as police officers, and the Justice Act would help them better accomplish their mission to be guardians of the people in the neighborhoods they serve. I'm also proud that St. Louis-area police departments have adopted many reforms that are being called for and urge Congress to stop playing politics and pass this bill to ensure best practices are

adopted nationwide.

Schupp: People across the country are calling out for change, and it's up to Congress to respond to those calls with action. Certainly, we acknowledge when progress is made while also working to address existing inequalities and continually seeking justice for those who have been denied it. Social justice also means access to affordable health care (including in our rural and underserved areas), good jobs with decent wages and benefits, secure retirement, affordable childcare options, and quality education, so that people have the fair shot they deserve to care for themselves and their families.

Schulte: Congress should not be in the business of legislating winners and losers. Federal legislation should enable equality and secure individual liberties.

Why should voters elect you to this position? List your goals, if elected.

Wagner: I'm fighting for a full economic recovery to help families impacted by the pandemic and bring unemployment rates back down to record lows. I'm working hard to increase affordable healthcare options for all. I support healthcare premium assistance for those who have lost their jobs during COVID, ending surprise medical billing and protecting those with pre-existing conditions while reducing premiums and prescription drug prices. I support policies like tax cuts and ensuring you keep more of your paychecks. I'm committed to addressing the crisis on our Southern border, fighting crime and sex trafficking and getting children back to school safely.

Schupp: We deserve representation that puts our families first – not lobbyists and corporate special interests that Ann Wagner prioritizes. I will work across the aisle for common-sense solutions to solve real problems: affording critical medications, making sure our kids are safe at school, building an economy that works for everyone. Big Pharma and corporate interests are funding and backing my opponent, while my campaign is powered by people. We must get money out of politics and reduce the influence of special interests in Washington. I am committed to restoring decency, and my allegiance is to the people above all else.

Schulte: How has the government been working for you? I am strong on individual liberty and responsibility. I believe that a watchful eye needs to be over the executive branch, no matter who is elected president. My first priority will be representing the people of District 2 over a party.

On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the strongest, how would you rate your



Who's who for the Nov. 3 election

U.S HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 8

Smith faces pair of challengers for new term

In what is something of a rematch of the November 2018 election, a Festus resident is challenging Republican Jason Smith, who is seeking another two-year term representing District 8 in the U.S. House of Representatives in the Nov. 6 general election.

Democrat Kathy Ellis, a social worker and psychotherapist from Festus, is challenging Smith, a small business owner, lawyer and farmer from Salem.

Ellis is hoping this time around to close the gap. Smith won two years ago with 73 percent of the vote.

Libertarian Tom Schmitz of Rolla also is in the race. He did not return a *Leader* candidate questionnaire.

All ran unopposed in their parties' primary elections in August.

Smith first was seated in Congress in June 2015 after he won a special election to fill a vacancy created when Jo Ann Emerson resigned. He then was re-elected to a full two-year term in 2014 and was re-elected in 2016 and 2018.

At its northernmost point, District 8 covers most of western and southern Jefferson County and extends south to the state line.

The pay for U.S. representative is \$174,000 a year, plus allowances.

SMITH, 40, is from Salem and lists his home in Cape Girardeau. He is a family farm owner, an attorney, a former small business owner and real estate agent. He received bachelor's degrees in agriculture economics and business administration from the University of Missouri in Columbia in 2001 and a law degree in 2004 from Oklahoma City University in 2004.

Social media: *Website:* www.selectjasonsmith.com *Facebook:* JasonSmithForMissouri *Twitter:* @JasonSmithMO

ELLIS, 64, lives in Festus. She is married to Ann Gettinger. She is a board-certified licensed clinical social worker and a trauma and addictions counselor. She worked in private practice in Sunset Hills and currently works in Festus. She graduated from Northwest High School in 1974, received a bachelor's degree in administration of justice from the University of Missouri-St. Louis in 1977 and a master's degree in social work in from Washington University in 1978.

Social media: *Website:* www.ellisforcongress.com *Facebook:* Kathy Ellis for Congress *Twitter:* @ellisforcongress

What experience do you have (elected office, civic organizations, volunteer work, etc.) that might serve you well in this position?

Smith: My parents, grandparents, great grandparents and grandparents before them all called this area home. I know what it means to fight for our val-



Jason Smith



Kathy Ellis

ues. I grew up working around agriculture and my dad's small business, I saw how government overreach can have dire consequences. I will continue to fight to get the government out of your business so you can raise your family and care for your livelihood as you know best.

Ellis: I am the vice-chair of a comprehensive community health center, secretary of the board of a domestic violence shelter and a board member of a cultural diversity committee. These positions have helped me develop a broad perspective on the needs of people and how those can be addressed.

How would you grade the federal government's response to the coronavirus pandemic? What would you have done or what would you do differently?

Smith: While the president and his coronavirus task force deserve high marks for their response, Congress unfortunately deserves a failing grade. President Trump immediately halted international flights from countries of high outbreak, gave decision and control to local governments and through his operation "Warp Speed" we have three vaccines already in the final trial phases. Those type of successes don't just happen. On the other side, it has been unfortunate to see the constant politicization of the virus by Speaker Nancy Pelosi who thinks it will help her this election if the country stays locked down and businesses and schools closed.

Ellis: The current response from this administration has been unacceptable. We are still suffering from the lack of long-term planning that should have been in place. This will not be the last epidemic-pandemic or crisis situation that we will have as a nation. There needs to be strong cooperation among federal, state and local governments, as well as coordination from other countries in this world to effectively eradicate the potential for this to occur again. We need to develop a massive response team that emphasizes prevention rather than an uncoordinated, ineffective and unequal governmental reaction.

There's always talk about instituting term limits for members of Congress. Would term limits be a good thing or a bad thing, and why?

Smith: Strict term limits only serve

to empower one group of people in our nation's capital – swamp-dwelling lobbyists. Mass exodus of Congress every couple of years will ensure that lobbyists and their influence grow stronger and that their voices are the ones writing our nation's laws and policies, not the American people or the representatives they elect.

Ellis: It is worth exploring. We have too many members of Congress who have been in too long and have lost contact with their constituents, as well as being influenced by lobbyists. The seats in Congress should not be the job that lasts for a lifetime. We need new life from new people to create a robust and engaged Congress that acts on behalf of the people.

How should Congress respond to calls to improve social justice?

Smith: Those on the left controlling the Democratic Party believe that defunding the police and calling America 'racist' are the best places to start. I couldn't disagree more strongly. We need law enforcement to keep communities, businesses and families safe. Police officers put their lives on the line every day, we owe them more thanks than we can give. In the wake of recent events, we have to make sure that as individuals and as a country we become better – better people, better citizens and better Americans. That will make more of a difference than any new law or regulation could.

Ellis: As a nation, we need to accept that we need to make changes. From governments to industry, the courts, the police and education, we need to examine how we can provide equal opportunities to all Americans. We have been wounded greatly by the lack of equality that has existed for years. We have a Congress right now that is not communicating, an electorate that is becoming more divided and a loss of direction. We need to talk to each other, not just allow social media to spread its lies. We need policies from Congress that will help.

Why should voters elect you to this position? List your goals, if elected.

Smith: The district has been my family's home for seven generations. Serving you allows me to fight for the values which make up the heart of rural America: A smaller, less intrusive government, more personal freedoms and protecting farms, Main Street businesses and families. I want to make sure that the way of life we know is preserved for generations to come, that it is not eroded by the onslaught of a liberal agenda that aims to empower governments over families. We need a federal government that works for Missourians, not the other way around.

Ellis: I am not a politician. I am a public servant. I have spent my career working with individuals who are suffering. I listen to them. When they reveal the extent of their problems, we begin to

work together on a solution. This district looks fine from the interstate, but on the side roads we see extreme poverty, infant-mother mortality, hunger and food insecurity, abandoned hospitals, schools and businesses, little hope and little help. We need leadership from someone who cares, not someone who ignores the needs of the people.

On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the strongest, how would you rate your support of your party's nominee for president? Explain your reasoning.

Smith: 1. The record of accomplishment in President Trump's 3 1/2 years is astonishing: Thousands of burdensome regulations repealed, massive middle-class tax cuts, more than 200 miles of border wall completed, ended trade deals hurting American workers, tore up the disastrous Iran nuclear deal, confirmed hundreds of conservative judges, ushered in 50-year lows in unemployment and delivered the best economy in a lifetime. He did all of this in the face of a failed impeachment sham and while dealing with a global pandemic. I am excited about what we have accomplished so far, but even more excited for what comes next.

Ellis: I would rate my support as a "1." We need someone as president who has the experience and wisdom we need to calm this nation down from hate-filled speech, the destruction of our democratic values and Constitution. We need someone who understands the people and can empathize with their pain. We need a leader who makes decisions on what we need, not in his best interests, and someone who hires competent people. We need someone who is respected around the world, and that is Joe Biden.

Election info

The Jefferson County Clerk's Office has started a Facebook page to keep voters up to date on upcoming elections. It can be found at: Jefferson County, MO Election Office.

Whether signs or electioneering is allowed outside your polling place is a decision made by the venue, and any violations should be reported to the management of the building. However, under state law, no signs or electioneering are allowed within 25 feet of the door to any polling place.



Who's who for the Nov. 3 election

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 3

Imperial woman seeks to unseat Luetkemeyer

Republican Blaine Luetkemeyer of St. Elizabeth is seeking his sixth two-year term in the U.S. House of Representatives, but he faces two challengers who will attempt to block him from returning to Washington, D.C., in the Nov. 3 general election.

Democrat Megan Rezabek, a maintenance worker from Imperial, won the Democratic Party's primary in August by a 2-to-1 margin against Dennis Oglesby and will square off against Luetkemeyer and Libertarian Leonard Steinman II of Jefferson City in the general election.

Steinman ran unopposed in August, but Luetkemeyer easily outdistanced four challengers to win the Republican Party's nomination.

Luetkemeyer, from St. Elizabeth, is a farmer and small business owner who was director of the Missouri Division of Tourism from 2006-2008.

Neither Luetkemeyer nor Rezabek returned *Leader* candidate questionnaires.

District 3 covers northern Jefferson County and extends north and west past

the St. Louis area.

The pay for U.S. representative is \$174,000 a year, plus allowances.

STEINMAN, 68, lives in Jefferson City. He and his wife, Velma L. Steinman, have a son. He is a retired businessman, which included owning a trucking company. A graduate of Jefferson City High School, he trained to be a welder at the Nichols Career Center in Jefferson City and learned to be a heavy equipment operator as a member of the U.S. Navy Seebies in the mid-1970s.



Leonard Steinman II

What experience do you have (elected office, civic organizations, volunteer work, etc.) that might serve you well in this position?

Steinman: I volunteered with the American Red Cross during the cleanup of Joplin after tornadoes. I am an experi-

enced truck driver and heavy equipment operator. I have run for city councils, mayor the Missouri House of Representatives, governor, the U.S. Congress and president. I have served on the Jefferson City Veterans Council.

How would you grade the federal government's response to the coronavirus pandemic? What would you have done or what would you do differently?

Steinman: Bad. There is a solution. Masks are one part of it, but a vaccination could not be used since 1953 because the U.S. signed the chemical-biological-radiological warfare treaty.

There's always talk about instituting term limits for members of Congress. Would term limits be a good thing or a bad thing, and why?

Steinman: Absolutely, then there would be people in office who would do their occupation instead of lobbying all the time. Then some things would get done.

How should Congress respond to

calls to improve social justice?

Steinman: Do their occupation with respect to the general public instead of special-interest groups.

Why should voters elect you to this position? List your goals, if elected.

Steinman: I'm real. I've been a member of unions. I started and sold businesses. I've been involved in all phases of farming (dairy, wheat, cattle, potato, cotton) and I've been a migrant worker. I know the problems of business and working people.

On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the strongest, how would you rate your support of your party's nominee for president? Explain your reasoning.

Steinman: I don't know him. I'll vote for him because he is a Libertarian, but I vote for the person who has done something besides trying to collect money like a street panhandler who has a "Work for Food" sign. We should get rid of the primary elections. What a waste of time and money.

District 113

Continued from Page 1

Assembly should pass that legislation. I would think most of the hard-working middle class would agree they are paying enough in taxes and do not want more taxes and tax increases.

Where should the state budget be cut to make up for unexpected expenses incurred to respond to the novel coronavirus pandemic? What should not be cut?

Shaul: Education should not be cut. The best way to deal with a potential budget shortfall due to this pandemic would be to limit new spending and new projects. By doing this, we should be able to maintain the level of services that the community relies upon.

Burgess: I would not cut the budget to our police, first responders, health care and public schools. If anything, we need to help and support them more. I would look into government's wasteful spending and look at increasing taxes on anyone making more than \$500,000 a year. For far too long, the middle class has carried the state by paying its fair share and now I think it's time for the super wealthy to do the same instead of getting away with all the tax loopholes that they do.

How would you assess the state government's response to the coronavirus pandemic? What would you have done or what would you do differently?

Shaul: Missouri's response to the coronavirus pandemic is hard to assess during the pandemic itself. When the pandemic is over, we will see that the

state's response was one of balancing public health and individual freedom.

Burgess: The coronavirus has been very difficult this year as my wife tested positive for the virus and she is a registered nurse who is very careful. The state should have responded faster. I would have mandated 6 feet social distancing and encouraged people to spread out more. Masks can work if handled correctly. Taking the mask off and on, touching your face with your hands and not being clean and sanitized would not help contain the spread. I would highly encourage everyone to wear a mask if social distancing cannot be practiced, but I would not mandate it.

What is your stance on Constitutional Amendment No. 3, which would repeal portions of the "Clean Missouri" initiative overwhelmingly approved by voters in 2018?

Shaul: I support Amendment No. 3, because it will eliminate all lobbyist gifts and will ensure that the legislative districts are a true and fair reflection of the communities that they represent.

Burgess: I am a big supporter of Clean Missouri. I do not support repealing any part of it. Politicians for too long have been bought and paid for by special interests. And a lot of politicians like gerrymandering to manipulate and rig the boundaries of an electoral constituency. We need to leave Clean Missouri alone.

Why should voters elect you to this position? List your goals, if elected.

Shaul: My goals since getting

elected remain the same: Build a better economy with family-sustainable jobs, improve the public education system by ensuring students, teachers and parents have the tools to prepare students for college or careers upon graduation from high school and I will always support all of our first responders. It is my continued fight for these goals along, with my proven conservative values, that makes me right person to represent the 113th District.

Burgess: I want to maintain our property values, lower crime rates, end government corruption and support our police and other first responders. We need to bring back our good-paying jobs to Missouri instead of shipping them to China. We need affordable health care and lower prescription drug costs. I would support our kids and public schools and never bend or waiver on my values.

On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the strongest, how would you rate your support of your party's nominee for president? Explain your reasoning.

Shaul: 1. Based on my proven position of protecting the Second amendment and ensuring that every life has a voice, I will be supporting President Trump for re-election.

Burgess: I would give Joe Biden a 3. I am excited to see and watch the debates. Joe has been in politics for a very long time with a lot of other politicians, regardless of party. We need term limits on the federal level like we do on the state level. No one should make a career out of serving the people in government. We need new people in office.

District 2

Continued from Page 4

support of your party's nominee for president? Explain your reasoning.

Wagner: 1. I worked with President Trump to give Missouri's families the biggest tax cut in history; employ more Americans than ever before and achieve record-low unemployment rates for minorities, women, and youth; support record economic growth; reduce prescription drug costs and introduce more affordable health insurance options; support Social Security and Medicare; and hold China and Iran accountable. Biden's socialist proposals would raise taxes on the middle class, decrease your healthcare options, use your tax dollars to fund late-term abortions, and undermine Trump's campaign to protect against Chinese and Iranian aggression.

Schupp: I am a supporter of Vice President Biden, but no matter who wins the presidential election, I am committed to restoring decency and civility in politics. If elected, I want Missouri families to know they'll have a champion in Congress who will fight tirelessly for them to have better access to health care, a quality education, and an economy that works for them. I'll fight to get money out of politics and reduce the influence that special interests have over our elections and representatives. I'll show up for working Missourians no matter what.

Schulte: 1. Jo Jorgensen has great ideas to make the government work for you and change will never happen if, we as the citizen oversight of government, keep electing the same people to the same positions.



Issues on the Nov. 3 election ballot

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT No. 1

Term limits would be extended to more state offices

Missourians will be asked on Nov. 3 to pass judgement on two amendments to the Missouri Constitution.

By far, the one that has received the most attention is Constitutional Amendment No. 3, which seeks to change the “Clean Missouri” initiative passed by voters in 2018.

In contrast, there’s been little publicity surrounding Constitutional Amendment No. 1, which aims to institute limits for all statewide elected officials.

Currently, the governor and treasurer cannot serve more than two four-year terms in their lifetimes. A “yes” vote on Amendment No. 3 would extend those limits to the lieutenant governor, secre-

tary of state, auditor and attorney general.

A simple majority vote is required for passage.

Voters in 1992 approved instituting term limits for members of the General Assembly. State senators cannot serve more than two four-year terms and state representatives are limited to four two-year terms.

Amendment No. 1 was placed on the ballot by the General Assembly.

The sponsor of the initiative, state Sen. Tony Luetkemeyer (R-Parkville) said passage of the amendment is in line with the wishes of the public.

“The voters of Missouri have made it clear they emphatically support term limits. This measure will bring consistency

to our term limits for all state officials and prevent them from becoming career politicians,” he told the Missouri Times.

Former State Rep. Brandon Ellington (D-Kansas City) argued against the initiative when it came up for debate.

He noted he used to be in favor of term limits until he became a lawmaker and saw lobbyists were the only ones with “institutional knowledge.”

“Term limits have proven to be a hindrance,” he said.

State Sen. Ed Emery (R-Lamar) has said he believes it’s a benefit to allow attorneys general and auditors to build expertise in office and he’s like to see the limit removed for treasurers.

“We want people in there who are experienced and know the job and know what they’re doing,” he said. “I do think that those are a little different categorically and functionally than those top executive positions.”

Missouri is one of eight states to limit governors to two terms during their lifetimes. Only five have such limits on treasurers. Some states have less restrictive term limits.

Currently, 23 states, including Missouri, specify no term limits for lieutenant governors; 31 do not limit terms of service for secretaries of state, 33 do not limit terms of attorneys general and 17 have no limit on auditors.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT No. 3

Republicans call for do-over on ‘Clean Missouri’

Missouri voters overwhelmingly approved the Lobbying, Campaign Finance and Redistricting Initiative, better known as Clean Missouri, in 2018.

On Nov. 3, Missourians will be asked if they want to keep the Clean Missouri amendment to the state’s constitution, which 62 percent of voters said they wanted, or make changes to it.

The amendment on next month’s ballot, called Constitutional Amendment No. 3, or less popularly the Redistricting Process and Criteria, Lobbying and Campaign Finance Amendment, will ask voters if they want to reverse the method they chose two years ago to have the state legislative maps redrawn after each federal Census.

The General Assembly placed the issue on the ballot, with Republicans voting overwhelmingly in approval.

All but one of the 46 Democrats in the House voted against placing it on the ballot, and none of the eight Democratic senators voted for it.

All legislators representing Jefferson County and Eureka voted to place the is-

sue before voters.

Clean Missouri in 2018 replaced the old method of redrawing state House and Senate districts. Under the old method, the governor appointed a commission made up of equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats to redraw the maps, with a focus on making districts compact. If that panel couldn’t agree, appellate judges took over.

Critics of that method claim state legislators often worked together to produce districts that assured their re-election, at best. At worst, it resulted in gerrymandered districts, the critics say.

Clean Missouri was intended to fix that. Under the changes approved by voters in 2018, the state auditor was charged with hiring a nonpartisan demographer to draw districts to produce more competitive elections, with the idea of producing a General Assembly that better reflects voters statewide.

Republicans generally believe having districts drawn by a nonpartisan demographer will result in more Democrats serving in the General Assembly.

Currently, 113 of the 163 seats in the Missouri House of Representatives are held by Republicans and 23 of the 34 state senators are Republican.

Clean Missouri proponents point out those numbers are out of whack, as most votes for statewide offices are routinely decided within 10 percentage points.

Amendment 3 would eliminate the nonpartisan demographer and replace it with separate bipartisan panels to redraw the state House and Senate maps. The 20 members of each group would be nominated by state and congressional district committees of each party. The governor would ultimately make the appointments.

It would also de-emphasize the requirement to redraw districts with an eye toward competitive elections.

A group formed to support Amendment 3 called Fair Missouri says on its website that the bipartisan committee will work to keep cities from being split up among districts, will guard against minorities from being underrepresented

and “finish the job” the 2018 amendment did not do, by banning gifts to legislators from paid lobbyists and reducing campaign contribution limits.

A group called No on 3, which opposes the amendment on the November ballot, counters on its website that its passage likely would limit minority representation and that instead of drawing districts based on total population, it would use the number of registered voters – a change that would likely benefit the Republican Party.

No on 3 also says the amendment’s proposed ban on lobbyist gifts will have a minimal impact because the current limit is \$5, which Clean Missouri put in place.

Likewise, critics of Amendment 3 say reducing contributions to Senate candidates by \$100, from the \$2,500 set by Clean Missouri in 2018 to \$2,400 per election, would not have the sweeping changes promised by some supporters.

The limit on donations to House candidates would remain at \$2,000 per election, an amount also set by Clean Missouri in 2018.

OLYMPIAN VILLAGE PROPOSITIONS A AND U

Pair of issues target town’s first businesses

Olympian Village voters on Nov. 3 can help the town welcome its first entry into the business world, Mayor Adrienne Hulvey said.

Both Proposition A and Proposition U need simple majorities to pass, she said.

Proposition A asks voters for permission to annex a small section of land north of the city limits that now is an unincorporated Jefferson County, Hulvey said.

“It’s 850 square feet on the north side of Hwy. 67,” she said. “It’s south of Athena School Road. It does not include the existing gas station (at Athena School Road and Hwy. 110). We were approached by an individual interested in developing the property for a retail business.”

She said no one lives on the property.

“This (annexation) will not involve any homeowners,” Hulvey said. “There’s not a thing there. Only Olympian Village residents will vote on these propositions.”

The name of the developer is not available for release at this time, she said.

She said any business would be welcome in in Olympian Village, which up to now has never had a brick-and-mortar business.

“There has been no commercial business in Olympian Village,” Hulvey said. “There is no business in the city.”

“If it passes, the city of Olympian Village will have access to a little bit of commercial taxes.”

She said she could not speculate as to how much tax money the development would raise for Olympian Village, but

does not expect it to be much.

“It would be a small supplement,” Hulvey said. “There are no windfalls around these parts.”

Otherwise, annexing the property should not significantly affect Olympian Village residents, she said.

“Most of the services (for a business locating in the annexed area) will continue to be provided by the county, like their emergency services and water,” she said.

She said Proposition U has to do with the sale of the Olympian Village wastewater treatment plant and system.

Voters are being asked to establish a business license tax on utilities, including companies supplying public utility services, of 5 percent for residential cus-

tomers and 5 percent for nonresidential customers.

Olympian Village voters approved a June 2 ballot measure asking permission to sell the city’s wastewater treatment system.

“We have accepted an RFP – request for proposal – from a company to buy the wastewater system,” Hulvey said. “The tax would provide the city with money for the general fund from each connection. There are 274 connections, approximately.”

She said she could not provide the name of the potential buyer of the system at this time.

Hulvey said she is not aware of any organized opposition to either proposition. “We had a public hearing on these,” she said. “No residents complained.”

Issues on the Nov. 3 election ballot

PACIFIC FPD PROPOSITION SAFETY District tries again for first tax hike since 2004

Safety is the key word concerning a ballot issue that will be decided by voters in the Pacific Fire Protection District on Nov. 3.

That's the reason that the initiative was called Proposition Safety, said Pete Gallagher, a retired captain with the district who is a leader of Citizens for Proposition Safety, which is promoting it.

"The No. 1 thing about this is it's all about safety," Gallagher said. "Safety for our firefighters, safety for our residents, safety with our equipment."

Voters will be asked to authorize a property tax increase of 27 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation.

The owner of a home assessed at \$150,000 by the county Assessor's Office will pay \$76.95 per year more in real-estate taxes. The property tax also affects personal property tax rates.

The district's current tax rate is 66.96 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation.

Chief Steve Sagehorn said the last time district voters approved an increase in the tax rate was 2004.

"If Proposition Safety passes, we have a long-term plan so that we won't have to go to the voters again for at least another 15 years," he said.

Sagehorn said some of the \$700,000 per year that Proposition Safety would generate would be used to supplement the pay of the district's 18 employees, most notably the 15 full-time firefighters.

"We run three crews, five to a crew, around the clock, 24-7," Sagehorn said. "Will we use some of the money for raises and insurance? Yes, but we won't go extravagant by any means. We're talking about cost-of-living increases. But I want to keep our people here. I want them to start here and retire here. This will help us do that."

If the proposition is approved by a simple majority, a third firefighter per shift would be added to Station No. 2 in Robertsville. Three firefighters per shift are assigned to Station No. 1 in Pacific.

"Right now, we have just the two there. If something happens like a fire or a bad vehicle accident, the closest help is 12 to 15 minutes away, and in bad weather, as much as 30 minutes."

He said national firefighter standards call for four staff members to a firetruck.

"I'd like to see four people on a truck, but we can't do that," Sagehorn said. "But we'd like to get to three. We shouldn't have situations where (the crew from Station No. 2) responds to a house fire, and one of them is manning the truck and the other is getting help from the homeowner to bring a hose into his house. We're relying too much on help from bystanders. That presents safety issues for everyone involved."

If a third firefighter is added, Sagehorn said, the Robertsville station would

be expanded.

He said the Robertsville station was built in 1980 but last updated in 1991.

"In the 1980s, all the firefighters were men," he said. "That's not the way it is today. We would need to provide separate sleeping quarters and separate bathrooms. The station also is not (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant."

Additional firefighters, he said, likely would be recruited from the ranks of the district's 14 part-time officers.

"We'd like to hire from within, and keep them throughout their careers," Sagehorn said.

He said the part-timers are used to fill in for vacationing or sick or injured firefighters.

"They help to keep our overtime costs down," he said.

Gallagher said the district also would like to streamline the number of vehicles in its fleet.

"We're truck-rich, but they're aging, and they aren't sufficient for the many uses that fire protection districts are called upon to perform today," he said.

Retiring old, single-purpose vehicles would save money by cutting insurance and maintenance costs, he said.

Gallagher also said equipment upgrades are needed.

"We haven't replaced our fire hoses for 25 to 30 years," he said. "We have purchased new sections through the years. Also, our breathing tanks – self-contained breathing apparatus – are five years old. They have a life expectancy of seven to 10 years and cost \$5,000 each. We have 34 of them. This also is a big safety issue."

Backup turnout gear – the equipment worn at the scene – also needs replacement, he said, as old turnout gear accumulates microscopic debris from fires and accident scenes that poses health hazards to firefighters.

A similar ballot issue, Proposition Fire, was defeated in June, with 571 voting yes and 676 no.

Gallagher said his group is doing a better job promoting Proposition Safety.

"We as a group sat down and talked about how we can get the message out better," he said. "That's why we're focusing this time on safety. There are very clear needs here. But the important thing is safety, and we need to focus on the big three: The safety of our residents, the safety of our firefighters and that our equipment needs to be safe. There is a very clear plan on how this money would be spent, and it would all be for safety."

The district covers 78 square miles in northwest Jefferson County and portions of Franklin and St. Louis counties, including the Pacific, Catawissa and Robertsville areas.

The how-to on casting absentee, mail-in

If you're intending to avoid the lines at the polls on Nov. 3 for whatever reason, the deadline to apply for either an absentee ballot or a mail-in ballot is Oct. 22.

Absentee ballots have always been available for those who are in the military, are working and can't make it to the polls, are ill, or are a sick person's caretaker.

Those who cast an absentee ballot are required to supply a reason why they can't vote in person.

For the November general election, another reason to vote absentee has been provided – if you're at risk of contracting COVID-19.

Those considered at risk, according to the law, include people who are 65 years old or older, are in a long-term care facility, have chronic lung disease, severe heart conditions, moderate or severe asthma, diabetes, liver disease, chronic kidney disease or are on dialysis or have a compromised immune system.

For some of the provisions to cast an absentee ballot – including those at high risk of getting COVID-19, a notarization is not necessary.

The mail-in ballot option is available for those simply worried about going to the polls but don't fall into any of the categories to request an absentee ballot. There's no requirement to give a reason.

However, a mail-in ballot must be notarized and must be sent to the election authority's office.

Under state law, absentee ballots that require attention from a notary public – if you won't be in the area on Election Day, a religious belief precludes you from voting on Election Day, if you're a poll worker or if you're in jail but otherwise can vote – notaries must handle your ballot for free.

However, that doesn't apply to mail-in ballots.

The Missouri Secretary of State's Office is recruiting notary publics who will offer their services to mail-in ballot voters for free. The list can be found at sos.mo.gov/elections/mailinnotary.

To make it easier for those casting mail-in or absentee ballots who need the services of a notary before submitting their ballot, the state is allowing notaries to offer virtual, or online, witnessing of ballot signing for the November elections.

Except for military ballots, absentee and mail-in ballots need to be in our election authority's office by 7 p.m. on Election Day (when polls close) to be counted.

While someone with an absentee ballot can drop it off on Election Day, a mail-in ballot has to come in the mail.

Another alternative is to cast an absentee ballot in person. Expanded hours are usually offered immediately before the election, and Jefferson County Clerk Ken Waller said he is planning to set up remote sites in person, absentee balloting.



Absentee VS. mail-in ballots

Here are answers to commonly asked questions.

Do I have to give a specific reason to request a ballot?

Absentee - YES
Mail-in - NO

Can I vote in person at the County Clerk's Office?

Absentee - YES
Mail-in - NO

Does my application need to be notarized?

Absentee - NO
Mail-in - NO

How can I submit my application?

Absentee

In person at the County Clerk's Office, by mail, fax or email

Mail-in

In person or by mail

Does my ballot affidavit envelope need to be notarized before I return the ballot?

Absentee

NO, if your reason is illness or you're the caregiver of someone confined by illness, or if you're at risk of COVID-19.

YES, if your reason is absence from the county, religious belief, employment as an election authority (or other reasons).

Mail-in - YES

Do I have to pay to have my ballot notarized?

Absentee - NO
Mail-in - YES

(although some notaries may waive the fee)

What's the deadline to return my ballot?

Absentee

Must be in County Clerk's Office by 7 p.m. Nov. 3

Mail-in

Must be in County Clerk's Office by 7 p.m. Nov. 3

Can I drop my ballot off at the County Clerk's Office?

Absentee - YES
Mail-in - NO

Who can I call to learn more?

Jefferson County - 636-797-5486
St. Louis County - 314-615-1851