



[TOP](#)

Tila Hubrecht Capitol Report - Friday, November 4, 2016

NOVEMBER 08TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Tila Hubrecht Capitol Report - Friday, November 4, 2016

Make Your Voice Heard at the Ballot Box on Nov. 8

The voter registration deadline has passed and the people of Missouri are set to help determine the future of the state and the nation on November 8. It's now up to all the registered voters to make their voices heard at the ballot box. They will need to turn out not only to decide who will lead the country, but also to determine races for statewide offices, state representative, and for a range of ballot issues that can make significant changes to the way the state operates. Without question, this is an extremely important election, and if Missourians are going to make this country's representative democracy work as the founding fathers intended, it's imperative that everyone take advantage of the fundamental right that is voting.

The good news is that voter participation rates are typically high during presidential elections. As an example, the 2012 general election saw approximately 2.8 million of the 4.2 million registered voters cast a ballot for a participation rate of almost 66 percent. The number was even higher for the 2008 general, which saw a participation rate of more than 69 percent. When both numbers are compared to the 35 percent participation rate for the 2014 general election, it is clear that voters are motivated to turn out during presidential elections.

Now it is imperative that voters take the time to learn the candidates and the issues so they

can make informed votes. As Thomas Jefferson once said, “Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government.” November 8 is an opportunity for Missourians to cast their votes to help determine the direction the state and the nation will take over the next four years.

Dyslexia Task Force Holds First Hearing

The legislature’s Task Force on Dyslexia recently held its first hearing in the State Capitol. The group, which is made up of lawmakers, medical and education officials, and private individuals with expertise or experience with dyslexia, was created with the passage of HB 2379 during the 2016 regular session.

The group is working to make recommendations to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in three key areas: how and when students should be screened for dyslexia; how students with reading issues can be helped in classrooms; and what professional development should be implemented to train faculty in screenings. The department will then take the task force’s recommendations and use them to develop their guidelines, which have to be completed by December 31, 2017.

One of the members of the task force talked about the experiences her niece went through as a student with dyslexia. The state representative noted that her niece was frustrated as she felt like she was doing something wrong even though she was working hard. The task force member hopes that with early screening, students like her niece could be identified and helped to obtain the support they need to achieve their academic potential.

The task force is required to report to the governor and the legislature’s Joint Committee on Education by October 18, 2017. The chair of the task force said the group could make recommendations ahead of the deadline so that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education would have more time to consider them.

Once screenings in schools begin, the parents of students who are found to have indicators of dyslexia will be notified, so that they can choose whether to follow-up with more testing by medical professionals.

The task force plans to hold its next hearing at the end of November.

Improving Missouri’s System of Foster Care (HB 1877)

A piece of legislation that went into effect as law in August now gives courts more to think about before putting a youth back into the state’s foster care system, and gives foster parents more say in their foster children’s extracurricular activities.

The legislature approved House Bill 1877 during the 2016 regular session and the governor signed the bill into law. One of its provisions specifies what a court must weigh when considering a petition for a youth to reenter the foster care system. The goal is for a court to look at whether the individual had been behaving properly in the system before leaving it. The sponsor of the legislation said the bill is meant to address an issue where juvenile offenders are sometimes put back into the foster care system even if it's not the proper place for them.

The new law also requires a court and other parties in a child's case to defer to the foster parent in decisions regarding participation in extracurricular and other activities, such as school field trips. The bill is meant to give some clarity to the confusion that sometimes exists in regard to who has the right to give permission to the young person.

HB 1877 also included provisions dealing with when people should be placed on the state's child abuse and neglect registry; identifying and responding to abuse and neglect of children three years old and younger; and the creation of a task force on the prevention of infant abuse and neglect.

Governor Nixon Releases More Budget Dollars

Just a few weeks ago Governor Nixon released approximately \$12 million of the more than \$174 million in funds he had restricted. This week he released another \$8.7 million in funds in reaction to a settlement with Volkswagen. The dollars obtained through the multi-state consumer protection settlement allowed the governor to release additional funds for school transportation, disaster response, and agricultural producers. Specifically, the governor's decision provides \$4.5 million for school transportation. It also releases \$3 million for a previously deferred biodiesel subsidies transfer. Additionally, \$1.2 million in funding will go to the State Emergency Management Agency for Missouri Task Force 1 to support disaster response. Even with the latest release of dollars, the governor continues to withhold more than \$150 million from the current state operating budget.

Services Offered by the Representative

Requesting a Courtesy Resolution

Courtesy resolutions can be requested for many reasons including, but not limited to, an Anniversary, Birth, Eagle Scout Award, Marriage, Birthday, Business Opening, Special Award, Retirement, or Sports. Please do not hesitate to contact my office should you like to request a Courtesy Resolution. If you would like to have me personally present the Courtesy Resolution, please call my office and my assistant will be happy to work with you to schedule for this. My office number is 573/751-1494.

Scheduling a Visit with Me Back in the District

I always enjoy visiting with my constituents in the 151st District. Some of my favorite groups are school aged children but I also enjoy meeting with every age group! If you would like to schedule a visit with me, please call my office at 573/751-1494, my assistant will be happy to work with you to arrange a time for us to visit. Visits can include reading and talking with school children, visiting retirement centers, visiting non-profit groups, businesses, coffee talks, and more.

Visiting the Jefferson City and the Capitol

Even though we are out of session from June to December, any time of the year is a great time to visit the Capitol. The building is a beautiful place to visit and my assistant will be happy to arrange a tour for you while you are in Jefferson City. There are many interesting places to visit during your visit to our state Capitol. A great way to get to Jefferson City is via Amtrak if driving is not possible or challenging. Visitors can tour the Missouri Supreme Court, Old Missouri State Penitentiary, the Missouri Military History Museum, the Missouri State Highway Patrol Museum, and more.

Missouri and United States Flags

If you know of a school, retirement center, non-profit group, or someone else that is in need of a flag, please contact my office at 573/751-1494 and we will arrange to have a new flag sent or delivered to them.

Scheduling Class or Large Group Visits at the Capitol

If your school is planning on traveling to the Capitol between January and May, contact my Capitol office as soon as you know a date to set up the tour, things become busy very quickly during the session. Tours of the Governor's Mansion and Capitol fill up rapidly with schools from all over Missouri, so, the sooner, the better. It is best to set up your school visits or large group visits at least 6 months out if possible. If this is not possible, contact my office and we will try very hard to see what we can arrange for you, rest assured, not all will be lost though, there are plenty of self-guided tours and other sites to visit. If you are planning a visit during the Interim Period, June through December, please call my office, if I am in Jefferson City during your visit, I would enjoy scheduling a visit with you and showing you the Capitol!

Service Member and Veterans Services

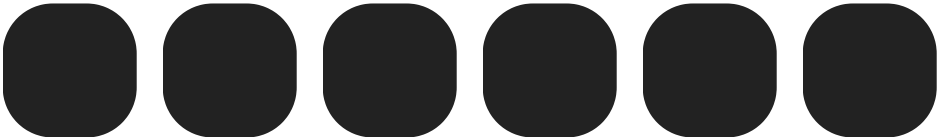
Enough cannot be said of the sacrifices our brave men and women of the Armed Forces make for our freedoms every day, both at home and abroad. The Missouri Veterans Commission has put together a guide for Missouri resources for military service members and their families with contacts for local VA Hospitals and Centers, the American Legion,

the VFW, the other resources for our veterans. To request one, please contact my office at 573/751-1494 and we will be more than happy to provide you with a copy of this helpful guide.

LAST UPDATED ON NOVEMBER 08TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

<https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/v5u2/Tila-Hubrecht--Capitol-Report--Friday-November-4-2016>

[Go to post](#)



More from ShowMe Times:



SUBSCRIBE TO "POLITICAL BLOGS"

ShowMe Gold Sponsors