

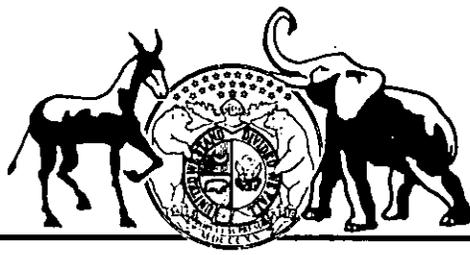
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SPRING 1991

# THE INSIDER

Official Publication of the Board of Election Commissioners of St. Louis Co 41 South Central Avenue, Clayton, MO 889-2255

*On April 2nd, St. Louis County Voters will go to the polls to make their choices in determining the direction of their local government. Much preparation has gone into the election by our staff. When you have 597 candidates and 348 different ballot styles, things can get very complicated. However, it is our job to sort it out and make it easy for the voter to make their choice at the polls.*

*We need to be especially mindful of the various procedures that were outlined at our training classes. Typically, in April elections, many races are close. It is of the utmost importance that no mistakes are made.*

*On a different note, we at the St. Louis County Board of Elections, would like to take this opportunity to salute our troops returning from the Middle East and express our sincere sympathies to the families of those who gave their lives to further preserve this great country.*

PAUL S. DeGREGORIO

ANN M. BARDGETT

## APRIL 2ND VOTERS TO DECIDE LOCAL OFFICES, ISSUES

In an election dominated by local politics, St. Louis County voters will go to the polls on Tuesday, April 2nd to elect fellow citizens who will run their cities, schools and fire districts. With campaigns void of television or radio advertisements, but dominated by yard signs, bumper stickers, mailings and door-to-door-encounters, 597 candidates are seeking 308 positions in local government. In addition, voters in various entities will decide 79 propositions from small fee increases to \$65,000,000 bond issues. There are no County-wide issues or candidates on the ballot.

Turnout for the election will vary a great deal because of the "local" nature of the election. Certain areas of the County will see a good turnout of 40-50% of its voters due to hotly contested races or issues, while some parts will have turnouts of less than 10% due to candidates running unopposed. Republican Director of Elections, Paul S. DeGregorio, estimates that countywide about 23%, or 129,018 voters of the 560,948 registered, will go to the polls.

April Municipal elections are some of the most complex for election officials. County voters will be using 490 polling places with 348 different ballot styles. They will be served by 3,192 election judges. Postcards with information notifying the voters of the election and their polling place have been mailed to the 319,048 households in the County containing registered voters. Election officials estimate the cost of the election to be approximately \$497,000. This amount will be proportionally divided among all entities that have issues or candidates on the ballot.

## WHY DIFFERENT COLOR BALLOTS?

Often we are asked by election judges and voters alike why we use more than one color ballot at some polling places in the county. The reason we use more than one color ballot for the April Election is because of the many different voting districts in St. Louis County, such as cities, wards, schools, fires, etc. Because these districts have different boundaries that often overlap we use different color ballots to make sure that each voter is allowed to vote only on the candidates and issues in their area. There could be as many as five different color ballots in a single polling place. We use a white, green, blue, salmon and brown color ballot.

We remind the election judges to make absolutely sure that they write the correct color ballot from the precinct register on to the voter number form; that the voter is issued his/her proper color ballot and is sent to the proper vote recorder. All of these steps are extremely important.



★ ★ ★ REGISTER & VOTE ★ ★ ★

## REDISTRICTING

While the big story of 1990 was the General Election recount, 1991 will be dominated by redistricting which is designed to equalize population in all districts. The U.S. Constitution requires Congressional district lines to be re-drawn every ten years based on the latest census information. Our own County Charter and Missouri Constitution, similarly, call for reapportioning St. Louis County's seven council districts, seven state senate and 32 state representative districts. The County Council, although not required to do so by law, has indicated that the county's present 20 townships may be re-drawn and perhaps increased in number.

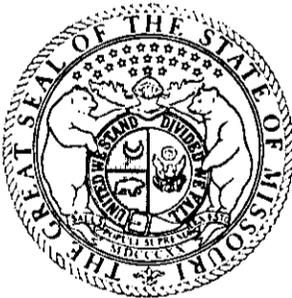
**St. Louis County Council Districts** will be re-drawn by a bipartisan commission of 14 members appointed by the County Executive. If 9 of the 14 members do not agree on a plan, it will go to the courts.

**Congressional Districts** shall be re-drawn by the Missouri General Assembly. By statute they will divide the state into 9 equal districts.

**State Representative Districts** will be re-drawn by an 18 member bipartisan commission appointed by the governor. The plan must be approved by 13 members, otherwise it will go to the Court of Appeals.

**State Senate Districts** will be re-drawn by a 10 member bipartisan commission appointed by the Governor. The plan must be approved by 7 members, otherwise it also will go to the Court of Appeals.

**Municipalities** are governed by individual city charters and ordinances. Their internal ward boundaries are often changed after the census.



## 1991 LEGISLATION

Federal and State Legislators have introduced a myriad of proposed new laws relating to elections. Legislation has been suggested in Missouri which would affect Election dates (eliminating February and October), Campaign Finance, Ethics, ballots access, term limitation for elected officials, initiative petitions, and the cost of elections. In addition, proposals have been submitted which would bring back a Presidential Primary in 1992 and make some changes to voter registration laws.

Federal legislation being considered includes the establishment of a regional Presidential Primary, Uniform Poll Closing times across the country and voter registration at State Motor Vehicle and Driver's license facilities. In addition, lawmakers are considering proposals to further regulate Political Action Committee's and to establish public funding of congressional elections.

## NO ELECTION FOR SOME FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS

The passing of Senate Bill 862 last year, now Sec. 115.124RSMo, provides for certain qualifying political subdivisions or special districts to be exempt from holding an election. To qualify for a "non-election" the number of candidates filing for an office must be equal to the number of positions to be filled. The entity must have published a notice of filing in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the district. This bill does not apply to municipalities, community colleges and school boards. Five Fire Protection Districts in the County took advantage of this law and will not be holding an election on April 2nd.

**IN THE OFFICE...** Virginia Brady has been promoted to Accounting Clerk; the following individuals have been hired as clerks in our office: Ruth Burris, Team 2, Julie Heinemann, Team 3, Sally Tschee, Team 5, Jabbie Welle, Team 3.

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