

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 1, 2014

Contact: Jeanette Mott Oxford
314-775-3261; joxford@masw.org

Voters, Beware! Amendment 7 Language May Mislead Some – MASW Decries Cole County Court Decision

Jefferson City, MO – The Missouri Association for Social Welfare (MASW) today decried the decision by Cole County Circuit Court not to grant Missouri voters relief in the matter of the ballot language for Amendment 7. Jeanette Mott Oxford, executive director of MASW, said, “We believe the voters of Missouri deserve truth in advertising and ballot language that is scrupulously true, impartial and clear.”

MASW’s principle objections to the ballot language are as follows:

- The ballot language mentions only one tax being increased to support transportation projects. Two taxes are actually being raised, the sales tax and the use tax.
- The use of the word “temporary” without further description may cause some to assume the sales and use tax increases will automatically sunset after a short duration.
- By not furnishing the current rate of sales tax and use tax, 4.225 percent, votes may assume the increase comes to less than one percent, instead of the reality – the increase is almost 18 percent.
- The fiscal note summary was written and published before the fiscal note for the amended bill was calculated and published – a case of the tail wagging the dog.

“We object to our opponents slowing the case down and then pleading that the case was too late. We further believe that using language related to safety on the ballot creates an emotional squeeze meant to frighten voters,” said Oxford. “House Joint Resolution 68 that put this on the ballot is silent about what is meant by safety.”

MASW offers the following guidance for Missouri voters regarding Amendment 7:

- Don’t wait. Start studying the issue now.
- If you arrive at the polls on Aug. 5 without studying the issue, search for the 11 x 17 fair ballot language statement somewhere on the wall of the polling site to learn what Amendment 7 will do. Do not depend on the ballot title and fiscal note summary alone.
- Reject use of regressive sales and use taxes to fund our transportation needs. There are far better alternatives, including modernization of our fuel tax to restore its purchasing power, coupled with an income-based rebate. Vote no on Amendment 7 on August 5.

###

Missouri Association for Social Welfare (MASW)
606 E. Capitol Avenue, Jefferson City, MO 65101
573-634-2901, x301; joxford@masw.org
www.masw.org

About MASW:

MASW (www.masw.org), founded in 1901, provides leadership, research, education, and advocacy to improve public policy and programs impacting the health and welfare of all Missourians. MASW played major roles in the initiation of the Missouri Commission on Human Rights, the reduction of sales tax on food by three cents, development of the Missouri Housing Trust Fund, and lawsuits leading to the creation of the Missouri Foundation for Health and provision of non-emergency transportation to Medicaid clients, plus many other social justice victories.