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## **MASW Lawsuit Challenges Transportation Tax Ballot Language**

(JEFFERSON CITY, MO) The Missouri Association for Social Welfare (MASW) today filed an action in the Circuit Court of Cole County challenging the Secretary of State's summary statement for a statewide ballot measure that could create an additional three-quarters of one cent state sales and additional three-quarters of one cent state use tax to fund transportation projects. The MASW petition maintains that the **"certified summary statement is insufficient and unfair because it inadequately, unfairly, and prejudicially describes the purposes and legal impact of the ballot measure."**

Jeanette Mott Oxford, executive director of MASW, named as a plaintiff with MASW in the suit, said, **"MASW fights for basic human needs and basic fairness for all Missourians, and this ballot measure fails in regard to both. Our lawsuit attempts to shine a light on inadequacies of the ballot language that could mislead the public."**

MASW's leaders are concerned that the proposed tax increase, estimated by some sources as \$6.1 billion over ten years – the largest in Missouri history – would fall disproportionately on Missourians who are least able to pay for it. Oxford said, **"Two out of five Missouri households have less than \$31,000 in annual income. These families often have to choose between paying rent or paying utilities, purchasing food or medicine. A large increase in the sales tax would add a new challenge to daily stability."**

**"Missouri voters deserve fair and accurate language about this crucial issue before they vote,"** stated Oxford. **"The ballot language as published on the Secretary of State's website is not adequate to prepare residents to vote in an informed manner."**

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