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Recreational marijuana legalization nears voter approval

Amendment 3

*96% reported

Yes - Winner

53.3%

No

46.7%

BY DAN MIKA

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The fate of legalized recreational marijuana in Missouri moved close to victory late Tuesday.

As of midnight Tuesday, Missouri Amendment 3 was poised for victory with 53.3% of voters in favor of Amendment 3 with 87% of precincts reporting, according to the Associated Press.

The measure would legalize recreational marijuana four years after Missouri voters approved medical marijuana sales. People over 21 can purchase cannabis legally with a 6% state tax in effect.

The mood was nervy early in the evening at a pro-Amendment 3 watch party at the Grand Cru Restaurant in Columbia, as early vote counts signaled defeat. Votes for passing the amendment steadily increased through the night.

John Payne, campaign director for the pro-cannabis committee Legal Missouri 2022, said he expected the lead to stretch in favor of approval through the night based on liberal leaning of precincts that had yet to report as of 10:30 p.m. He said a victory would amount to a "seismic change" in crime policy within the state.

"This is the most important criminal justice reform that has ever been passed by the voters of the state of Missouri," he said. "It's a new world for the state."

State analysts estimate legalization will initially generate \$7.9 million in revenues and rise to at least \$40.8 million annually. That figure implies the market could make approximately \$680 million in gross revenue per year.

The amendment also expunges

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Kendrick wins top county job



Kip Kendrick, right, and Vicki Hobbs, center, celebrate Kendrick's victory in the presiding commissioner race on Tuesday at Big Daddy's BBQ in Columbia. Kendrick won the race against Connie Leopard by 7,776 votes.

Former state rep defeated Republican Leopard for presiding commissioner

BY MAIA BOND, QUINN COFFMAN AND RICHARD SCHODL

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Democrat Kip Kendrick won the Boone County presiding commissioner seat Tuesday, with about 56% of the complete and unofficial vote.

Kendrick beat out Republican Connie Leopard, who said she ran as a non-politician local business-owner.

There was a relaxed and optimistic atmosphere at Big Daddy's BBQ and Soul Food where friends, family and residents celebrated Kendrick's win.

Kendrick and his team of interns knocked on over 47,000 doors by the end of the campaign, he said. His priorities while campaigning included a focus on allocating the county's \$35 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds and increasing county employee wages to address workforce shortages.

"There's nothing that I would do differently. I don't say this lightly," Kendrick said. "I think we ran the best campaign in the state of Missouri."

The Boone County presiding commissioner

Presiding commissioner

Connie M. Leopard

43.7%

Kip Kendrick - Winner

56.3%

job was on the ballot this year after Commissioner Dan Atwill decided to retire after holding it for over a decade. The presiding commissioner represents the whole county on a board of three commissioners. The other two represent the north and south areas of the county.

The seat is one of the most powerful positions in the county and oversees the county's

budget, policies, departments and employees.

Kendrick is no stranger to public service in Boone County. He spent six years as a state representative for District 45 before stepping down from the role in late 2020 to become the chief of staff for Sen. Greg Razer, D-Kansas City. In his previous campaigns for state representative, he said the race was never competitive.

Kendrick said he will now step away from his role as chief of staff to be presiding commissioner.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to unplug for a minute, reset and recharge for the next adventure, whatever that's gonna be," he said.

Mya Franklin, an MU political science student and intern for Kendrick, said she enjoyed feeling like she was helping a local politician, conversing with people she didn't know and answering voters' questions.

"You knock on every single door, get everybody outside and everybody voting because it's crucial for our democracy, especially right now with women's rights and everything," Franklin said.

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Amendment 5

*96% reported

Yes - Winner

60.2%

No

39.8%

House District 3

Blaine Luetkemeyer - Winner

65.1%

Bethany Mann

34.8%

House District 4

Mark Alford - Winner

71.3%

Jack Truman

26.3%

State Rep., District 44

Cheri Toalson Reisch - Winner

62.6%

Dave Raithe

37.4%

State Rep., District 47

John Martin

47.8%

Adrian Plank - Winner

52.2%

State Rep., District 50

James Musgraves

44.9%

Doug Mann - Winner

55.1%

County Auditor

Jason Gibson

48.1%

Kyle Rieman - Winner

51.9%

County Treasurer

Dustin Stanton

47.4%

Jenna Redel - Winner

52.6%

Recorder of Deeds

Shamon Jones

43.7%

Bob Nolte - Winner

56.3%

Schmitt defeats Busch Valentine

BY JIM SALTER

The Associated Press

O'FALLON — Republican Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt won election to the U.S. Senate Tuesday, defeating Democrat Trudy Busch Valentine and keeping what's considered a safe Republican seat in GOP hands as the party fought for control of the Senate.

Schmitt, 47, will take the seat occupied for the past 12 years by Republican Roy Blunt, who announced in March 2021 he would not

seek a third term — ending a half-century career in politics.

Schmitt largely campaigned against Democrat President Joe Biden and inflation, characterizing Valentine during the campaign as an out-of-touch heiress who would side with the Democratic president over Missourians. Valentine's campaign catchphrase was "nobody's senator but yours," and she slammed Schmitt for voting as a state senator to allow foreign ownership of farmland and over his sup-

U.S. Senate

*96% reported

Eric Schmitt - Winner

55.2%

Trudy Busch Valentine

42.4%

Jonathan Dine

1.6%

Paul Venable

0.7%

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SUNNY
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