

# Information on Missouri's Proposition C

July 29, 2010

Proposition C will be on the August 3 ballot in Missouri. Proposition C is a statewide referendum to revise Missouri's statutes to possibly block the ability of the federal government to impose a legal insurance coverage mandate on Missouri residents. There is confusion amongst voters about what a vote Yes or No will mean and its impact on the state.

## A VOTE YES

A "yes" vote would amend the Missouri law to deny the government authority to penalize citizens for refusing to buy private insurance or infringe upon the right to offer or accept direct payment for lawful health care services. However, it's unclear whether the provision would withstand legal challenge. The amendment also would modify laws regarding the liquidation of certain domestic insurance companies.

(source Secretary of State's Office, "fair ballot" language)

According to Carl Bearden, Executive Director of United for Missouri, "part of Prop C is symbolic. A yes vote would send a message not only to Washington rejecting a government health care program, but to Missouri legislators that such a system is unwanted here."

(source As I See It column in the Kansas City Star)

## A VOTE NO

A "no" vote would not change the current Missouri law regarding private health insurance, lawful health care services and the liquidation of certain domestic insurance companies.

(source Secretary of State's Office, "fair ballot" language)

According to the Missouri Budget Project, a "no" vote on Proposition C will allow Missouri to move forward, focus on implementing federal reform well, and improving some parts that may need changing. An estimated 500,000 Missourians will gain access to affordable health insurance through federal reform. "It is imprudent to deny Missourians the benefits that will be enjoyed by citizens in other states."

(source Missouri Budget Project, "Proposition C Is Just a Distraction from the Real Issue VOTE NO")

