

Proposition D: YES For Safer Roads And Streets In Missouri

Proposition D (Prop D) is a proposed law that will go before Missouri voters on Nov. 6, 2018, and it will provide substantial resources to boost local government transportation projects. The Missouri Municipal League (MML) strongly supports Prop D.

Missouri's lawmakers of both major parties voted to put nonpartisan Proposition D on the ballot, giving citizens the final say on boosting Missouri's motor fuels tax for the first time in 22 years. MML has endorsed Prop D because of its tremendous support for municipal road, street and bridge projects – a 66 percent statewide funding increase for State Road Fund dollars going to local governments.

If passed, Proposition D will gradually raise the state motor fuels tax by 2.5 cents a gallon annually, spread over four years, beginning on July 1, 2019. For the average motorist, Prop D will cost about \$1.25 per month for every 2.5 cents motor fuels tax increase.

Full funding will bring in an estimated \$412 million annually in new money to the constitutionally protected State Road Fund. That fund may only be used for (1) the cost of collecting the tax, (2) the cost of the Missouri State Highway Patrol to enforce safety on roads, and (3) for the maintenance of Missouri's roads and bridges at the state and local level.

“Stronger and safe transportation in Missouri is crucial for cities and all citizens. It affects every priority for the state, from recreation to business development to safety,” said MML President and Hazelwood Mayor Matt Robinson. “We need stronger, safer roads, and funding for this vital lifeline has been neglected for too long.”

The Missouri Department of Transportation's statewide road and bridge program is based on priorities set with more than two dozen local and regional planning organizations covering every city and county. Prop D's new \$288 million in annual MoDOT funding will accelerate these locally driven state priority projects.

In addition:

- Thirty percent of Proposition D's new money is reserved for Missouri's cities and counties, split 50-50 statewide between municipal and county governments.
- That is approximately \$124 million annually for local government road, street and bridge projects.
- That is about \$62 million for cities, \$62 million for counties, in new money each year.

Missouri has an additional 97,000 miles of local roads and streets and 14,000 local bridges. With Prop D, local governments will make local decisions on local priorities using new money.

“With Proposition D, Missouri's cities will be able to apply local decision-making and work on local transportation priorities to address deteriorating roads,” said MML Executive Director Dan Ross. “The significant new funding for local projects in Prop D makes it a win for our citizens and our local and state economies.”

Cape Girardeau Mayor Bob Fox noted the gradual phase-in of Prop D. “I am wholeheartedly for the phased-in tax

increase. Missouri is in desperate need of improved highways, roads and bridges. I can think of no fairer way to accomplish this than a tax we pay on gasoline. Those who use the roads should help pay for their upkeep,” Mayor Fox said. “It is vital that the people of Missouri support this much-needed small tax for the betterment of our whole state.”

Missouri is near the bottom, 49th in the nation, with 17 cents per gallon state motor fuel tax. Oklahoma’s state motor fuels tax is no longer lower than Missouri’s, and unlike Missouri, Oklahoma also has toll roads. When Prop D is fully phased in, Missouri will still be competitive with its neighbors. For example: Missouri’s state motor fuels tax will still be more than 7 cents cheaper than that of Illinois, whose residents cross the Mississippi River to the Show-Me State to fuel up.

Prop D will provide a major investment and infusion of dollars that will impact local communities with jobs, infrastructure and transportation progress. That is why Prop D has won strong support from a diverse and growing coalition of supportive groups and organizations, including MML, the Missouri Association of Counties, Missouri Farm Bureau, the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, labor organizations, statewide agricultural organizations and many more.

“It’s vital MoDOT has sufficient funds to maintain Missouri’s transportation systems,” says Hannibal Mayor Jim Hark. “A big part of this involves state matches necessary for securing federal highway funds that brings millions of federal transportation dollars back to Missouri for highways. Without adequate matching funds, MoDOT

cannot secure these larger federal highway dollars.”

“If approved by Missouri voters, this initiative also provides direct transportation funding to cities and counties,” Hark continues. “It’s time Missourians get behind this initiative to secure a better economic tomorrow for our state, our cities and counties.”

Much has happened with Missouri’s roads and bridges in the last 22 years. The number of annual vehicle miles traveled on Missouri highways is up 37 percent – an increase of more than 14 million miles traveled annually. Approximately 2,500 miles of highways have been added to the state road system since 1996.



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SINCE MISSOURI LAST RAISED ITS STATE MOTOR FUEL TAX IN 1996:

- Total vehicle miles traveled in Missouri have increased by 25 million miles.
- The Missouri state highway system has grown by 6,500 miles for which MoDOT is responsible.
- Missouri now has the nation’s 7th largest state highway system, far surpassing any of our neighboring states.
- Missouri has about 34,000 miles of state roads and more than 10,000 bridges.
- Missouri has nearly 1,000 bridges in “poor” condition, and about 1,200 bridges with weight restrictions.
- Local governments have another 97,000 miles of county roads and city streets, plus approximately 14,000 bridges.
- There were 22,310 Missouri road deaths from 1996 through 2017.

Today, Missouri has the nation's seventh largest state road system. More than 1,200 Missouri bridges have limits on how much weight they can carry. Nearly 900 Missouri bridges are rated in "poor" condition.

More vehicle miles traveled. More state and local roads. Poor bridges and weight restrictions. It all means more costs for law enforcement and first responders to protect and serve statewide. It means more costs for motorists, truckers, school buses, ambulances and police to make detours for safety and efficiency.

"The level of service expected today far exceeds the level of revenues received," says Kirksville Mayor Chuck Long. "The additional 10 cent fuels tax for Missouri will help the city of Kirksville by giving us additional funds that can be used not only for pavement, but much-needed curb and gutter work."

No price in dollars can be put on the human cost of unsafe roads: Since the last state motor fuel tax increase was implemented in 1996, there have been 22,310 deaths and hundreds of thousands of injuries on Missouri roads.

"The bottom line is that Proposition D will provide critical resources for the state, cities and counties to work for safer roads and bridges for motorists and their families traveling Missouri," says Col. Ron Replogle, retired superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol and Honorary Chairman of SaferMO.com, the campaign committee advocating for passage of Proposition D.

"This is the very definition of 'To Serve and Protect' that is the first command for law enforcement and first responders," says Replogle. "The mission of protecting motorists and their families will be boosted dramatically with a 'yes' vote on Proposition D on Nov. 6."

Costs of keeping roads safe and in service keep going up, while the Missouri Department of Transportation's purchasing power from State Road Fund revenues keeps declining:

- The 17 cents per gallon motor fuels tax put into place in 1996 buys 7 cents today.
- Concrete, steel and asphalt have doubled and tripled in cost since 1996.
- Today, Missouri ranks 46th in revenue spent per mile.

Thanks to MoDOT's responsible management, efficiency and locally driven road and bridge priorities, the agency ranks 9th in cost-effectiveness. MoDOT has built a strong record of accountability and transparency in management and setting priorities. Proposition D will regain Missouri's lost purchasing power for safer roads, streets and bridges.

Missouri's natural geographic advantage makes the state America's crossroads for motorists and freight. But, the steady erosion of buying power for road and bridge funding means Missouri is not maximizing its natural advantages through roads and bridges. These advantages will be empowered by Prop D:

- Approximately 43 percent of the United States population is within 500 miles of Missouri.
- Consumers rely on freight shipping of local goods and more than ever for online purchases.
- Roads and bridges are vital to Missouri's top industries: agriculture, tourism and trade.

Branson Mayor Karen Best says, "When fully funded, the proposed gas tax will result in an additional amount of



A YES vote on nonpartisan Proposition D is a vote to:

- Make Missouri's roads and streets safer.
- Invest significant new state money in local road projects.
- Regain 22 years of lost purchasing power for good roads and bridges.
- Secure stable funding for law enforcement to protect and serve on our roads.

Gain more control. Partner with us.



You gain more control with **expert operational management**

- On-site licensed professionals
- Confidence in management of the day-to-day processes
- Experienced professionals working for you and your customers
- Improved safety, less liability and guaranteed regulatory compliance



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approximately \$165,000 for the city of Branson. This will result in maintenance and repairs for approximately 250-lane miles in the city limits. These 250-lane miles are travelled by 10,520 citizens and approximately 7 million visitors each year.”

For these reasons, and for the future of Missouri's communities, MML urges Missourians on Nov. 6, to vote “YES” for safer roads, streets and bridges. Vote “YES” on Proposition D! 🍃

Scott Charton is the communications director for SaferMO.com. To learn more about Proposition D, including the estimated dollars your city and county are estimated to receive with full implementation, visit www.SaferMO.com.



Photos courtesy of the Missouri Department of Transportation

NOVEMBER 6, 2018, BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR PROP D:

“Shall Missouri law be amended to fund Missouri state law enforcement by increasing the motor fuels tax by two and one half cents per gallon annually for four years beginning July 1, 2019, exempt Special Olympic, Paralympic, and Olympic prizes from state taxes, and to establish the Emergency State Freight Bottleneck Fund?”

BALLOT FISCAL SUMMARY:

“If passed, this measure will generate at least \$288 million annually to the State Road Fund to provide for the funding of Missouri state law enforcement and \$123 million annually to local governments for road construction and maintenance.”