

Amendment 5 - Missouri Department of the National Guard

Frequently Asked Questions

Amendment 5 Ballot Title:

“Shall the Missouri National Guard currently under the Missouri Department of Public Safety be its own department, known as the Missouri Department of the National Guard, which shall be required to protect the constitutional rights and civil liberties of Missourians?”

Q1: Why should I vote for Amendment 5?

A1: Amendment 5 will direct the Missouri National Guard to become its own department and requires the Guard protect Missourian’s constitutional rights and civil liberties.

Q2: How does Amendment 5 benefit the citizens of Missouri?

A2: The Missouri National Guard has a state and federal mission. Both missions require a direct line of communication from the Adjutant General to the Governor. Direct communication would ensure the Governor receives critical military advice and recommendations quickly in times of national or state crisis.

Q3: What are the Adjutant General’s thoughts on Amendment 5?

A3: MG Cumpton fully supports Amendment 5 because it allows the Guard to best serve the Governor and the citizens of the State of Missouri. It ensures the Governor receives critical military advice and requires the Guard to protect the constitutional rights and civil liberties of Missourians.

Q4: Why is the Missouri National Guard taking this step now?

A4: The Missouri National Guard is not initiating this action. This nonpartisan legislation was passed by overwhelming majority of both democrats and republicans in the house and senate. 48 other states have moved their National Guard to a distinctly separate department, reporting directly to their Governors.

Q5: How does Amendment 5 effect veteran’s benefits, such as Missouri’s veteran’s homes?

A5: It does not. Veteran’s needs will continue to be managed by the Veteran’s Administration and the Veteran’s Commission.

Q6: If the Missouri National Guard becomes its own department, will planning and coordinating for state emergencies be impacted?

A6: The Guard partners with all local and state agencies during emergencies. It has a strong and successful history of collaborating with these agencies to develop coordinated plans and a unified execution. These relationships will not change – the Missouri National Guard will continue working together to solve problems.