



Money and Issue Voting in Missouri: 1990 - 1994

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“Government by initiative is not only a radical departure from the Constitution’s system of checks and balances, it is also big business.”

David S. Broder
Democracy Derailed



Focus of Presentation

- Proposed constitutional and statutory initiatives and one proposed constitutional amendment submitted by the Missouri General Assembly where significant sums were spent to pass or defeat the measure.
- The analysis does not extend beyond 1994 due to the difficulty involved in obtaining summary data for subsequent years.



Procedures for Submission of Measures to the Voters*

- Constitutional Initiative Petitions must be signed by at least 8% (289,048)** of registered voters in two-thirds of the congressional districts (six of nine)
- Statutory Initiatives must be signed by 5% (180,656)** of registered voters in two-thirds of the congressional districts (six of nine)
- The General Assembly may also submit to the voters Constitutional Amendments or statutory changes

*Article III Section 50, Missouri Constitution

**Based on 2004 Voter Registration Numbers



Constitutional Initiatives

Year	Initiative	Total Expenditures		Percent of Votes		Expenditure Per Vote	
		Supporting Expenditures	Opposing Expenditures	Yes	No	Yes	No
1992	Constitutional Amend. 12 ¹ - State Term Limitations	\$283,819.47	\$11,443.75	75.00	25.00	\$0.18	\$0.02
1992	Constitutional Amend. 13 ² - Federal Term Limits	\$283,819.47	\$11,443.75	74.00	26.00	\$0.18	\$0.02
1994	Constitutional Amend. 6 ³ - Riverboat Gambling	\$10,598,863.00	\$297,112.00	53.88	46.12	\$11.23	\$0.37

1. Limits Missouri Legislators to serving no more than eight years in each chamber (Article III Section 5, Constitution of Missouri)
2. Limits terms of members of the U.S. Congress effective when one-half of the states adopt term limits (Article III, Section 45(a), Constitution of Missouri)
3. Authorizes games of chance at casinos (Article III Section 39 (e) Constitution of Missouri)



Constitutional Amendments Submitted by the General Assembly

Year	Initiative	Total Expenditures		Percent of Votes		Expenditure Per Vote	
		Supporting Expenditures	Opposing Expenditures	Yes	No	Yes	No
1994	Constitutional Amend. 7 ⁴ - Hancock II	\$781,674.00	\$2,114,220.00	32.00	68.00	\$1.40	\$1.77

4. Designed to restrict increases in state and local taxes



Statutory Initiatives

Year	Initiative	Total Expenditures		Percent of Votes		Expenditure Per Vote	
		Supporting Expenditures	Opposing Expenditures	Yes	No	Yes	No
1990	Proposition A ⁵ - Natural Stream Commission	\$529,797.58	\$280,814.80	24.00	76.00	\$1.65	\$0.29
1994	Proposition A ⁶ - Limits Campaign Contributions	\$99,863.00	\$0	74.00	26.00	\$0.08	\$0.00

5. Would have imposed stringent regulation limiting surface water pollution

6. Imposed significant limitations on campaign contributions; entire act subsequently declared unconstitutional in a series of U.S. Federal Court decisions



Conclusions

- The winners in 5 out of 6 issue campaigns out spent the losers
- Winners spent from \$0.80 per vote (campaign contribution limits) to \$11.23 per vote (defining games of skill and games of chance for purposes of riverboat gambling)
- Over \$15 million was spent in total on six ballot issues, but two-thirds of the total was spent on just one initiative (riverboat gambling)

