ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Prop C passes overwhelmingly

BY TONY MESSENGER • tmessenger@post-dispatch.com > 573-635-6178 | Posted: Wednesday, August 4, 2010 12:25 am

ST. LOUIS • Missouri voters on Tuesday overwhelmingly rejected a federal mandate to purchase health insurance, rebuking President Barack Obama's administration and giving Republicans their first political victory in a national campaign to overturn the controversial health care law passed by Congress in March.

"The citizens of the Show-Me State don't want Washington involved in their health care decisions," said Sen. Jane Cunningham, R-Chesterfield, one of the sponsors of the legislation that put Proposition C on the August ballot. She credited a grass-roots campaign involving Tea Party and patriot groups with building support for the anti-Washington proposition.

With most of the vote counted, Proposition C was winning by a ratio of nearly 3 to 1. The measure, which seeks to exempt Missouri from the insurance mandate in the new health care law, includes a provision that would change how insurance companies that go out of business in Missouri liquidate their assets.

"I've never seen anything like it," Cunningham said at a campaign gathering at a private home in Town and Country. "Citizens wanted their voices to be heard."

About 30 Proposition C supporters whooped it up loudly at 9 p.m. when the returns flashed on the television showing the measure passing with more than 70 percent of the vote.

"It's the vote heard 'round the world," said Dwight Janson, 53, from Glendale, clad in an American flag-patterned shirt. Janson said he went to one of the first Tea Party gatherings last year and hopped on the Proposition C bandwagon because he wanted to make a difference.

"I was tired of sitting on the sidelines bouncing my gums," he said.

Missouri was the first of four states to seek to opt out of the insurance purchase mandate portion of the health care law that had been pushed by Obama. And while many legal scholars question whether the vote will be binding, the overwhelming approval gives the national GOP momentum as Arizona, Florida and Oklahoma hold similar votes during midterm elections in November.

"It's a big number," state Sen. Jim Lembke, R-Lemay, said of the vote. "I expected a victory, but not of this magnitude. This is going to propel the issue and several other issues about the proper role of the federal government."

From almost the moment the Democratic-controlled Congress passed the health care law — which aims to increase the number of Americans with health insurance — Republicans have vowed to try to repeal it. Their primary argument is that they believe the federal government should not be involved in mandating health care decisions at the local level.
While repeal might seem an unlikely strategy, the effort to send a message state by state that voters don't approve of being told they have to buy insurance could gain momentum.

That's what Republicans are counting on at least, hoping that the Missouri vote will give the national movement momentum.

"It's like a domino, and Missouri is the first one to fall," Cunningham said. "Missouri's vote will greatly influence the debate in the other states."

Proposition C faced little organized opposition, although the Missouri Hospital Association mounted a mailer campaign opposing the ballot issue in the last couple of weeks. The hospital association, which spent more than $300,000 in the losing effort, said that without the new federal law, those who don't have insurance will cause health care providers and other taxpayers to have higher costs.

"The only way to get to the cost problem in health care is to expand the insurance pool," said hospital association spokesman Dave Dillon. He said the hospital association didn't plan to sue over the law, but he expected it would be challenged.

"I think there is going to be no shortage of people who want to use the courts to resolve this issue," he said.

Democrats also generally opposed Proposition C, though they didn't spend much time or money talking about it.

In the closing days of the campaign, many politicians 'sidled up" to Proposition C, Cunningham said, seeing the momentum the issue had gained.

Among them was U.S. Rep. Roy Blunt, who won the Republican primary for U.S. Senate on Tuesday night. Late last week, Blunt announced his support of Proposition C.

On Monday, Blunt said he hoped Missouri voters would send a "ballot box message" to the Obama's administration by overwhelmingly passing the measure.

The question now is whether the administration will respond by suing the state to block passage of the law, much as it did in Arizona recently over illegal immigration.

The issue in both is the same: When state laws conflict with federal laws, the courts have generally ruled in favor of the federal government, because of the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

**Richard Reuben, a law professor at the University of Missouri School of Law, said that if the federal government sues on the issue, it would likely win. Several other Missouri legal and political scholars agreed.**

But Cunningham is undaunted. She's got her own experts, and they're ready to do battle in court.

"Constitutional experts disagree," she said. "There is substantial legal status to this thing."
Mizzou assistant arrested on suspicion of DWI

8/4/10

By MIKE DeARMOND

Bruce Walker, an assistant coach on the Missouri football team, was arrested late Monday evening by University of Missouri police on suspicion of driving while intoxicated.

As of late Tuesday afternoon, Walker had not been charged.

According to UMPD captain Brian Weimer, the arresting officers’ report said they arrived in the Mizzou Athletic Training Complex parking lot at 11:14 p.m. “When the officers came up,” Weimer said, “he (Walker) was behind the wheel of a running car.”

According to a Columbia attorney consulted by Walker, the MU assistant and two other staffers were loading coolers in the back of Walker’s truck but that a taxi that Walker had previously called to take him home was on the scene.

The MU football coaching staff, including some of the coach’s wives, had just returned from a bus trip to the Lake of the Ozarks.

Chad Moller, MU’s assistant athletic director for media relations, said “appropriate” action had been taken and that the matter had been handled internally. It’s anticipated that Walker will be coaching Thursday when MU will hold its first preseason practice of August.
Missouri assistant coach arrested on suspicion of DWI

Tuesday, August 3, 2010 | 3:06 p.m. CDT
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA — Missouri assistant football coach Bruce Walker was arrested by campus police late Monday on suspicion of driving while intoxicated.

A campus police spokesman said the co-offensive line coach was behind the wheel of a parked car with its motor running outside the Mizzou Athletic Training Complex at 11:14 p.m.

Walker's attorney, Bogdan Susan, said the 50-year-old coach had returned from a bus trip to Lake of the Ozarks along with the Missouri football coaching staff and their wives.

Walker could not be located for comment Tuesday.

Walker has worked for Missouri head coach Gary Pinkel the past 14 years, including five years at Toledo.

Team spokesman Chad Moller said Tuesday the incident is under investigation. Missouri starts practice on Thursday.
UM's Nikki Krawitz receives honor

Tuesday, August 3, 2010

Nikki Krawitz, vice president of finance and administration for the University of Missouri System, has received the Distinguished Business Officer award from the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

It’s the highest individual honor the association gives out, recognizing people who have made outstanding contributions to business and financial management in higher education.

Krawitz is responsible for the UM System’s $2.5 billion budget, its accounting system, real estate, audits and insurance management. During her tenure, she has implemented a systemwide e-procurement program, a debt management process that has saved the university more than $70 million, development of new scholarships and an accountability system, according to the announcement.

She received the award during the association’s July meeting in San Francisco.
COLUMBIA – The University of Missouri and FOX Sports Net announced that Missouri’s home football games against McNeese State (Sept. 11) and San Diego State (Sept. 18) will be televised live via pay-per-view.

Game time for both contests has been set for 6 p.m. from Faurot Field/Memorial Stadium. In addition, kickoff time for the Sept. 25 home game against Miami, Ohio, has been set for 1 p.m., with no television.

The pay-per-view telecasts will be available on participating cable systems in the region and nationwide to satellite and telco customers.

The games are being televised on a pay-per-view basis because they were not selected for over-the-air broadcast or cable television coverage as part of the Big 12 Conference package. When that is the case, the only available option to get the games on live are through pay-per-view.

Suggested retail price for residential purchase of each game is $39.95.
COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Students and faculty at the University of Missouri can now rent hybrid vehicles and other cars from a campus parking lot in Columbia.

The WeCar rental program was created to help freshmen who are required to live on campus get around town more easily. An annual membership costs $35, with rental fees of $8 to $9 per hour.

The Columbia Missourian reports that the vehicles — two hybrids and two sedans — can be rented for up to 24 hours.

Students under 21 must have their own primary liability insurance of at least $300,000 along with signed permission of a parent or guardian.
For College Newspapers, Prepackaged Online Versions Are Yesterday's News

Mizzou mention page 2

By Kelly Truong

The Daily Texan needed its Web site to change with the times. Journalism has been moving from print to the Internet, and the student editors at the University of Texas at Austin publication were struggling to develop a unique online presence.

But their prepackaged Web software wouldn't let them, says Lauren Winchester, the editor.

So she and her colleagues decided to rebel against their Internet home of five years, College Publisher, a popular platform that offers student newspapers free Web hosting in exchange for ad revenue from college papers' sites. Instead, the Texan created its own Web site.

The site made its debut this past spring semester. The editors can now position stories and headlines where they want them, depending on the flow of the news, and showcase different kinds of media. They couldn't do that before.

Ms. Winchester said the freedom is invaluable. "Students are working on our Web site, and students are deciding how the Web site will look," she said.

The Texan's move reflects a concern among some college-newspaper editors that one size no longer fits all. Approximately 600 student newspapers use College Publisher, a content-management system owned by College Media Network. (Many other campus newspapers have a very limited online presence.) The service offers Web-page templates and around-the-clock technical support, a draw for student journalists with limited resources.

However, the uniformity of the templates limits what journalists can do on the Web."It's been detrimental to their ability to innovate online," said Daniel Bachhuber, founder of the now-defunct CoPress, a
company that also offered hosting and resources to student newspapers. It closed in March for financial reasons.

The Daily Texan's new host, Drupal, is an open-source system that allows Webmasters independence over design and content. Ms. Winchester said The Daily Texan was working to incorporate new multimedia elements on its Web site, such as videos and carousel slide shows.

Now, she says, the staff has total control over how the site looks: "Where on the page do we want breaking news to be displayed, and how do we want breaking news to be displayed?" she asked. "Before, we couldn't really change it."

Flexibility is the greatest draw of an independently maintained Web site, said Allan James Vestal, online-development editor at The Maneater, the University of Missouri's newspaper.

The Maneater is hosted on Django, another open-source system that allows its users more freedom to manipulate their Web content. One of the Maneater site's newest features is a comprehensive housing guide that displays current market listings for student housing.

"That's something we couldn't even conceive of if we were on College Publisher," said Mr. Vestal.

Rusty Lewis, director of affiliate relations at College Media Network, when contacted by The Chronicle about such complaints, wrote via e-mail that "all the design and decision making is driven by student demand and feedback."

College Publisher does have defenders. They point out that not all newspaper staffs have the technological capabilities to build and maintain their own Web sites. Rich Cameron, online-communications director for the Journalism Association of Community Colleges, said a platform like College Publisher is particularly helpful for those with minimal resources.

"It allows instructors with limited resources and experience in Web architecture to concentrate on teaching journalism skills rather than Web technology," he said.

That kind of support is compelling at four-year institutions as well. At The Daily Herald, the Brown University student paper, the staff has twice considered moving away from the platform, according to Web Editor Neal Poole, but never carried through. "The one thing College Publisher provides that is very hard to find elsewhere is support—the ability to know that if there is something wrong with our Web site, we can call a number and someone will take care of it," said Mr. Poole.

However, says Mr. Vestal, student journalists working with alternative platforms are willing to lend their expertise. He encourages student editors not to be intimidated by building their own Web sites.

"Get out there and get your feet wet," said Mr. Vestal. "Take advantage of the community, and don't be limited by what you think a particular piece of software can do."