



2010

masw

legislative update



August 4, 2010

Special Report: Primary Election Results

Rory Ellinger Headed to Legislature

Longtime MASW Member Elected in House District 72

Rory Ellinger won 40% of the vote in the three-way Democratic Primary in the 72nd District (University City, St. Louis Co.); because no other party has a candidate filed for the November election in that district, Ellinger will be the new State Representative.

In a legal and public service career spanning three decades, Ellinger has been a leader for many organizations, including MASW, as noted on his campaign website.



Rory Ellinger

He has been active on both the MASW state board and St. Louis Chapter board, serving in various offices including president, VP and treasurer. He is currently serving on the MASW Endowment Fund Committee.

MASW is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, and we do not get involved as an organization in the partisan election of candidates for office. We do, however, share news such as this with our members!

Rep. Maria Chappelle-Nadal Wins State Senate Seat

State Rep. Maria Chappelle-Nadal won 31% of the vote in the four-way Democratic Primary in State Senate District 14 (Central and North St. Louis County). Because no other party has a candidate filed for the November election in that district, Rep. Chappelle-Nadal will be the new State Senator.



Chappelle-Nadal

MASW's St. Louis Chapter presented its Legislative Service Award to Rep. Chappelle-Nadal in 2008. She replaces Sen. Rita Days, a champion of social justice throughout her legislative career; the voters

of the 14th could not choose to keep Sen. Days because of term limits.

Chappelle-Nadal will be replaced in the Missouri House by Rory Ellinger (see story in other column on this page).

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Rep. Jeanette Mott Oxford Re-Elected to Final Term

Unopposed in yesterday's primary, and unopposed in November, longtime social justice advocate [Jeanette Mott Oxford](#) has been effectively re-elected to the Missouri House of Representatives.

Rep. Oxford will begin her fourth term in the House in January; the voters in her district will not be allowed to choose her as their representative again in 2012 because of term limits.



MASW presented Rep. Oxford with the Elaine Aber Humanitarian Award at our 109th Annual Conference last year.

She is the sponsor of the Tax Justice for a Healthy Missouri legislation.

State Rep. Contest in St. Charles Features Familiar MASW Name

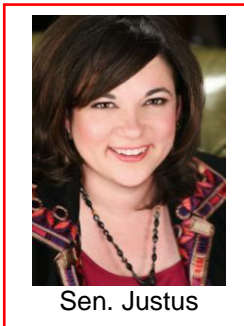
Attorney Paul Woody officially won the Democratic Nomination for State Rep. in District 15 (St. Charles); he will offer voters there a choice in November, when incumbent Rep. Sally Faith is up for re-election.

Paul is the husband of MASW Chapter/Task Force Coordinator Christine Woody, who has been our St. Louis area-based staff person since 2006.

[You can see the results of all state contests from yesterday's election at the website of Secretary of State Robin Carnahan.](#)

Sen. Jolie Justus Wins Primary With 85% of Vote

[Sen. Jolie Justus](#) was nominated for her second and final term in the State Senate, garnering 85% of the vote. While the Republican Party does not have a candidate filed in this district, there will be a Libertarian party candidate on the ballot in November.



If she is re-elected in November, Sen. Justus will begin her second term in January. Voters in her district cannot choose to keep her in office beyond that, because of term limits.

MASW's Kansas City Chapter presented Sen. Justus with its Outstanding Legislator Award in 2009. She has been a fierce champion of social justice issues, especially the Missouri Housing Trust Fund.

Rep. Bill Deeken Falls Short in Bid for State Senate

[Rep. Bill Deeken](#) fell to better financed candidates in the four-way Republican Primary in State Senate District 6 (Jefferson City and Central Missouri).

The winner, well-known Jefferson City businessman Mike Kehoe, will be the new Senator from the 6th, because no other party has a candidate filed for the November election. The voters could not choose to keep current [Sen. Carl Vogel](#) because of term limits.

Rep. Deeken worked with MASW as sponsor of the so-called "Moratorium Bill" to halt executions in the state for two years so a blue-ribbon panel could study the Death Penalty system in Missouri.

Rep. Brian Nieves Nominated for State Senate

[Rep. Brian Nieves](#) won 44% of the vote in the four-way Republican Primary in State Senate District 26 (Franklin Co.). The voting history in that district indicates he would be the favorite against his Democratic opponent in November.

The voters in District 26 could not choose to keep incumbent [Sen. John Griesheimer](#) because of term limits.

Rep. Nieves was the sponsor in 2007 of [HJR 7](#), which passed the legislature and was adopted by the voters in 2008. It amends the state constitution to require all “official proceedings” in the state to be conducted “in English.”

If the irony of this measure in a state with the official motto *Salus populi suprema lex esto*, and/or with the sponsor’s own last name being the Spanish word for “snow,” was noted by the public, it could not be seen from the overwhelming margin by which it was enacted.

[If you did not see his video campaign advertisement, you simply must \(link here\).](#)

More Than 70% “Yes” Vote for Proposition C

Even for some Missourians who favor an overhaul of our health care system, and who support greater public spending for it, the notion that the government would require individuals to purchase insurance runs counter to notions of civil liberties.

And so [Proposition C](#), the ballot measure designed to let people who do not like the insurance purchase mandate to say so at the polls, was virtually assured passage.

Pass it did, and overwhelmingly: it passed with more than 70% voting in favor; it was passed by the voters in every one of the state’s 114 counties – only in our two great urban centers, did a majority vote “no.”

In the City of St. Louis, 59% voted against Prop C (or, in support of the new national health plan’s mandates). In Kansas City, 56% voted against Prop C.

[The Affordable Care Act](#), as the new federal law is often called, is by no means a perfect enactment. It is easy to find parts of it that we would have done differently, had we been given the magic wand of lawmaking.

But the fact is that this Act is the most significant improvement in our national health care policy in 45 years. All of us who are committed to quality health care for all must do a better job of educating the public.

[Join MASW to help in this effort!](#)