"There she stands, proud in all her glory."

County Record Spring 2015



Cedar County Courthouse, Stockton, Mo.

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On The Cover

Cedar County

Dennis Weiser

Missouri Courthouses: Building Memories On The Square

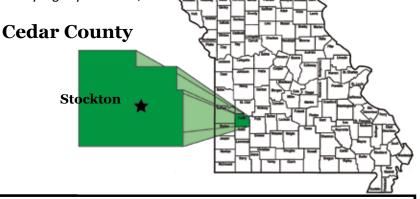
When naming the Cedar County seat, the citizens vacillated several times before settling on Stockton. In 1846, they called the town Lancaster. In 1847, they changed the name to Fremont to honor John Fremont, the explorer and son-in-law of the powerful Missouri Senator Thomas Hart Benton. A loss of political followers for both Fremont and Benton resulted in the town's changing its name again in 1859 to Stockton. Commodore Robert Stockton was a hero of the Mexican War.

The first permanent courthouse was ready for occupancy in the fall of 1855. Only eight years later,

however, that courthouse was destroyed by fire during the one of the Civil War battles.

In 1867, county officials decided to build anew with a two-story, brick building. This served the county for the next 70 years.

In 1939, the county began construction on Cedar County's current courthouse. Instead of using brick or stone, the specifications called for poured concrete. Poured concrete buildings are commonplace today, but Cedar County's courthouse was the first of its type in Missouri when it was dedicated in January of 1940.





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The Missouri Association of Counties, founded in 1972, is a nonprofit corporation and lobbying alliance of county elected and administrative officials who work to improve services for Missouri taxpayers. The board of directors meets on the third Wednesday of designated months in Jefferson City to promote passage of priority bills and monitor other legislation before the state General Assembly and the United States Congress. The Missouri County Record is produced four times annually by the association staff. Subscription rates for non-association members are \$15 per year prepaid. Rates for association members are included in membership service fees. All articles, photographs and graphics contained herein are the property of the association and may not be reproduced or published without permission. Advertising rates are available upon request.

The Stepping Up Initiative

County Jails Are Becoming Defacto Mental Institutions

Each year, there are an estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses admitted to jails across the nation. That's equivalent to the populations of Vermont and New Hampshire combined. Almost three-quarters of these adults also have drug and alcohol use problems. Once incarcerated, individuals with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and, upon release, are at a higher risk of returning to incarceration than those without these illnesses.

These inmates aren't receiving the appropriate treatment services to aide in rehabilitation and recovery. Not only is this a huge burden on the taxpayers, but also jails are spending two to three times the cost.

Sheriff Susan Pamerleau of Bexar County, Texas, has a personal stake in reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jail. "My brother was bipolar," she explained. "This was in the 1960s and '70s before we knew what lithium was or how to control chemical imbalances. He spent that time in and out of mental institutions. I saw firsthand the challenges of a family dealing with mental illness at a time when it was pushed under the rug and was seen as an

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embarrassment. So it's always been important to me."

Bexar County, which includes the city of San Antonio, is the 11th largest sheriff's operation in the nation and is home to the Bexar County Adult Detention Center, the 16th largest jail in the nation. Of the 4,000 incarcerated in the jail, Sheriff Palmerleau said more than 800 are being treated for some type of mental illness.

"The nation's jails have become defacto mental institutions, where law enforcement is increasingly relied upon to deal with individuals who are suffering from mental health issues," Sheriff Pamerleau said.

The sheriff, a retired U.S. Air Force major general, said 21 percent of those booked into her jail have a mental health history. The county spends \$2.2 million annually on psychotropic drugs to treat these people, nearly 60 percent whom have been arrested five times or more.

The Stepping Up Initiative, sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo), the Council of State Governments Justice Center, and the American Psychiatric Foundation (APF), is a national initiative to help advance counties' efforts to reduce the number of adults with mental and co-occurring substance use disorders in jails. With support from the U.S. Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Assistance, the initiative builds on the many innovative and proven practices being implemented across the country. The Initiative engages a diverse group of organizations with expertise on these issues, including those representing sheriffs, jail administrators, judges, community corrections professionals, treatment providers, people with mental illnesses and their families, mental health and substance use program directors, and other stakeholders.

The Stepping Up Initiative has two key components:

- The initiative urges county leaders to convene teams of agency decision makers and diverse stakeholders to develop a six-step action plan to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails. By signing up for the initiative, you will receive notification about learning opportunities, peer-to-peer exchanges, expert guidance, a toolkit of resources, and other assistance to facilitate planning and implementation. Go to https://stepuptogether.org/take-action to sign up.
- A National Summit will advance county-led plans to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses

(Continued On Page 4)

(Continued From Page 3)

in jails. Supported by the APF, a summit will convene in the spring of 2016 in Washington, DC, that includes counties that have signed on to the Call to Action, as well as state officials and community stakeholders. The summit will help counties advance their plans and measure progress, and identify a core group of counties that are poised to lead others in their regions. After the 2016 summit, participants will be notified of potential opportunities for sites to be selected for more intensive assistance through federal and private grant programs.

"We don't throw people in jail for having cancer. We don't put people in prison for having diabetes. And yet, too often, our response to people with mental illness or addiction is to lock them up," said Patrick Kennedy, former U.S. representative (D-RI).

"There is hope for everyone, even people who have been involved with the criminal justice system. In fact, most people who have mental illnesses have conditions that are manageable. Up to 80 percent of people with mental illness improve with treatment," he said.

Many of the people on the frontlines of this issue – from those living with mental illnesses to those working in the criminal justice and behavioral health systems – have experienced struggles and successes that highlight the impact of the problem and the complexities of addressing it. The Stepping Up Initiative has developed a series called "31 Days, 31 Stories," in which a new profile was published each of the 31 days of May (which was National Mental Health Awareness Month). Visit https://stepuptogether.org/people to read these fascinating stories.

Study Commission On Tax Policy Passes

Even though few bills were passed during the 2015 Legislative Session, Missouri counties and other local entities had at least one positive piece of legislation pass. SS/HB 384, sponsored by Rep. Flanigan, creates the Study Commission on State Tax Policy composed of tax experts and members of the Joint Committee on Tax Policy. The commission will study Missouri's state and local tax structure and offer recommendations for changes to many of the state's antiquated tax policies.

MAC will have a representative on the commission who is appointed by the Speaker of the House. The commission must establish a minimum of five public hearing dates in different geographic regions of the state. The commission must study the tax structure, identify the strengths

and weaknesses, investigate ways to improve the policy, and provide recommendations on the tax policy to the General Assembly. The final report of the commission's findings and recommendations and proposed legislation is due Dec. 31, 2017. The commission terminates on Jan. 1, 2018, and the provisions of the bill will expire Aug. 28, 2018.

This year, MAC partnered with the Missouri Municipal League and the Missouri School Boards' Association to form the Missouri Local Leaders Partnership (MoLLP) to create a united front for Missouri local government. MoLLP strongly backed SS/HB 384 which also contains tax amnesty measures. This type of review has not taken place for decades in Missouri, and SS/HB 384 will help ensure local services are properly funded through a sound tax policy.

Legislation Correction

MAC had reported in the legislative bulletin that CCS#2/HCS/SCS/SB 152 (Wallingford), a solid waste management bill, did not pass. However, the provisions of the bill were passed in CCS/HCS/SCS/SB 445 (Romine).



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Jackson County Asks MAC To Participate In Litigation

At MAC's May 13 board meeting, Travis Salmon (a shareholder in the Kansas City law firm of Polsinelli PC) asked the association to participate as amicus curiae in the case of David M. Elsea, et al. v U.S. Engineering Co. and Jackson County, MO (collectively, the "Defendants").

The case was brought as a purported class action and it was filed in 2010.

The plaintiffs seek more than \$40 million for the next 30 years to institute a medical monitoring program for all Missouri residents who have spent at least 80 hours in the Jackson County Courthouse between 1983 and the present.

Missouri is different from many other states, in that it allows medical monitoring for anyone who has been in the courthouse for more than two weeks. The University of Kansas Medical Center would be in charge of the monitoring.

The plaintiffs allege that

the presence of asbestos in the courthouse has placed the class at a significantly increased risk of contracting various diseases. Their allegation is based on a 1983 renovation project done by U.S. Engineering that involved a 12th floor retrofit.

The Circuit Court denied class certification on the basis that the claims were too individualized to be brought as a class action.

The case then went to the Western District Missouri Court of Appeals, which reversed the Circuit Court's denial of class certification and remanded the case back to the lower court.

Jackson County and U.S. Engineering next jointly filed in the Western District a Motion for Rehearing and an Application for Transfer to the Missouri Supreme Court. These were denied in late April.

At this juncture, Jackson County asked MAC to sign on as "a friend of the court" and file an amicus brief in support of transfer to the Missouri Supreme Court on the basis that in all buildings constructed prior to 1970 asbestos was a common norm.

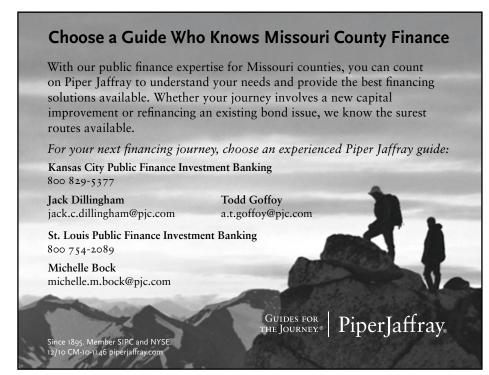
If the Supreme Court doesn't take the case, the trial court will certify it as a class action suit.

"The flood gates could open in Missouri for exposure in all buildings," concluded Counselor Salmon, adding that it could be a question of general interest throughout the state.

Add to this the fact that a local public entity has sovereign immunity from civil cases, but the trial court put that aside. Salmon believes Jackson County still has the sovereign immunity argument.

The MAC board of directors agreed unanimously and signed on to have its general counsel prepare the amicus brief.

It will probably take 60 to 90 days for the Supreme Court to accept or deny the case.





Public Entity Collective Bargaining Ordinance

Travis Elliott

Ellis, Ellis, Hammons & Johnson, P.C.

At the request of the MAC Board of Directors, I have prepared a sample ordinance that establishes procedures for collective bargaining for employees who are not covered by Missouri's Public Sector Labor Law. Member counties may obtain a copy of the sample ordinance from MAC or directly from me. Importantly, as with any sample ordinance or policy, it will need to be reviewed and tailored to fit the needs and circumstances of each individual county. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss the sample ordinance.

The Missouri Supreme Court has found that Article I, Section 29 of the Missouri Constitution provides all public employees the right to bargain collectively in spite of the fact that certain employees are specifically excluded from coverage under Missouri's Public Sector Labor Law, § 105.500, RSMo., et seq. and even though the statutory scheme does not make provision for those employees. Specifically in relation to counties, § 105.510, RSMo. excludes deputy sheriffs from the Public Sector Labor Law. Similarly, the Missouri Supreme Court has made it clear that public entities have an enforceable duty to bargain collectively with these public employees.

Having said that, the Missouri Supreme Court has also recognized that a public employer has the ability to establish a procedural framework for public employees to elect a representative for the purpose of collective bargaining. In West Central Missouri Region Lodge #50 of the Fraternal Order of Police, et al. v. The City of Grandview, Missouri, the Missouri Court of Appeals for the Western District upheld the ability of a public entity to adopt a procedural framework for the collective bargaining process.

There are a number of issues to consider in evaluating the necessity of adopting a framework via ordinance setting out the procedures to govern the process of a union seeking recognition by the County. This article will address three primary issues that the sample ordinance addresses.

1. Showing of Interest and Employee Signature Cards

In the Grandview case, the Fraternal Order of Police ("FOP") sent a letter demanding recognition as the exclusive bargaining agent for all police officers, police



sergeants, and police communication officers employed by the City. However, the FOP did not tender signature cards with the letter. In response, the City prepared a draft ordinance to establish the collective bargaining framework for personnel in the City's police department. The FOP then presented signature cards after the City adopted the ordinance. It appears that the Court ruled in favor of the City at least in part due to the fact the City had a procedural framework in place prior to presentation of signature cards by the FOP.

Without an ordinance in place, there is no framework to deal with the presentation of signature cards or a petition seeking recognition and can result in the county on missing out on having a say on multiple significant issues that are addressed in the sample ordinance.

In the event that a union seeks recognition and presents signature cards without an ordinance in place, the County would likely have only the option of: (1) recognizing the union as the bargaining representative; or (2) refusing to recognize the union as the bargaining representative and likely facing a lawsuit as a result.

Given a choice, unions will ask an employer to recognize the union as the bargaining representative without an election. The union may claim that a majority, or even all of the employees already belong to the union. The union may present to the Sheriff or other county official signature cards signed by a majority of

the employees in the bargaining unit. The presentation of signature cards to a county official or employee is problematic and creates the question of what to do with them if received.

The sample ordinance provides a framework to guide county officials and employees, as well as employees and unions on the process in the event a petition or signature cares are submitted. The sample ordinance sets forth the initial procedures to follow in the event a union seeks recognition, how a petition or signature cards are to be handled if received, and sets forth requirements for the process of determining whether there is a sufficient showing of interest in order to move forward with a secret ballot election.

2. Identification of a Bargaining Unit and Resolution of Conflicts

Determining which employees are included in a bargaining unit is critical and arguably the most important decision prior to the actual negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement. The best opportunity to ensure that the description of the bargaining unit is clear and reasonable is prior to recognizing a union. It is important to carefully examine the definition of which employees are proposed for the bargaining unit and examine the job descriptions of employees to identify a clear idea of the (Continued On Page 8)



(Continued From Page 7) scope and extent of the bargaining unit. Typically, bargaining units do not change significantly once established so it is important to make sure that the appropriate bargaining unit is selected from the start.

Under the Public Sector Labor Law, the State Board of Mediation is charged with determining the appropriateness of bargaining units of public employees and has a process to do so. Supervisors and employees that act in a confidential capacity to persons that formulate, determine or effectuate management policies regarding labor relations are typically excluded from a bargaining unit that has non-supervisory or nonconfidential employees.

The sample ordinance provides a process by which an appropriate bargaining unit is determined as well as the resolution of disputes about the proposed bargaining unit. Without this process in place, it is possible and even likely that any dispute about a proposed bargaining unit would have to be litigated and decided by the courts. With an ordinance, the county has significant input on the appropriateness and composition of a bargaining unit, and there is a process for excluding employees that are not properly included in a proposed bargaining unit.

3. Secret Ballot Elections

As discussed in the first section, there are two primary means for employees to organize: (1) card check recognition; or (2) secret ballot elections. Few employers accept card check recognition due to concerns about pressure and coercion from unions and the organizers. Thus, the second method of selecting a union as a representative through a secret ballot election is typically utilized.

The sample ordinance sets forth reasonable guidelines for the secret ballot election process, and sets

forth a process in order to avoid litigation about the conduct of an election which would otherwise be determined by a court. It sets forth how an election is to be conducted, the selection of observes and the election judge, the counting of ballots, how to deal with challenged

ballots, and certification of election results. Furthermore, if an ordinance is not in place prior to receipt of a demand and signature cards, it could prevent the possibility of having any say over whether a secret ballot election is conducted in the first place.

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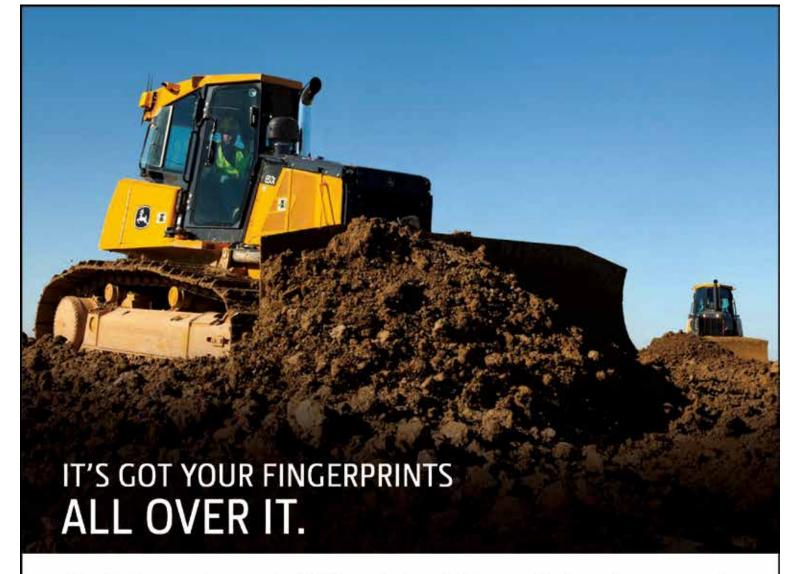
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Steve Hobbs Receives Appointments To Two Notable Positions

Audrain County Presiding Commissioner Steve Hobbs was recently appointed to serve on the Judicial Finance Commission, as well as on the MAC Workers' Comp Trust board of directors.

Established by law in 1982, the **Judicial Finance Commission resolves** budget disputes between counties and their respective circuit courts. The commission is empowered with numerous duties: to review petitions from the counties, schedule informal conferences in the geographical area in which the dispute arose in an effort to expeditiously settle the dispute, hold hearings so that all parties have the opportunity to present their positions for the record, and issue opinions on the reasonableness of the disputed budget request.

The commission is made up of seven members: a Court of Appeals judge, three Circuit Court judges, and three county commissioners.

Hobbs is filling a vacancy that

occurred when Livingston County Presiding Commissioner Eva Danner retired. The other two county members are Cape Girardeau County Associate Commissioner Paul Koeper and Boone County Associate Commissioner Karen Miller.

Hobbs was additionally appointed to fill Commissioner Danner's unexpired term on the 5-member board of directors of MAC's Workers' Comp Trust. He must run for reelection next November at MAC's Annual Conference.

In addition to Hobbs, Trust board members include Texas County Clerk Don Troutman (chair), Cape Girardeau County Associate Commissioner Paul Koeper (1st vice chair), Phelps County Treasurer Carol Green (2nd vice chair), and Jasper County Associate Commissioner Darieus Adams.

In 2002, Hobbs was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives until term limits forced him from the General Assembly in 2010.



In 2010 and again in 2014, he ran unopposed and was elected presiding commissioner of Audrain County.

Hobbs also currently serves as secretary on the County Commissioners Association of Missouri's executive committee.

Congratulations to the newest MAC Trust member...

Butler County!

For more information on the MAC Workers' Compensation Trust, please contact Devon Young, Arthur J. Gallagher — 314-800-2216 or devon_young@ajg.com.





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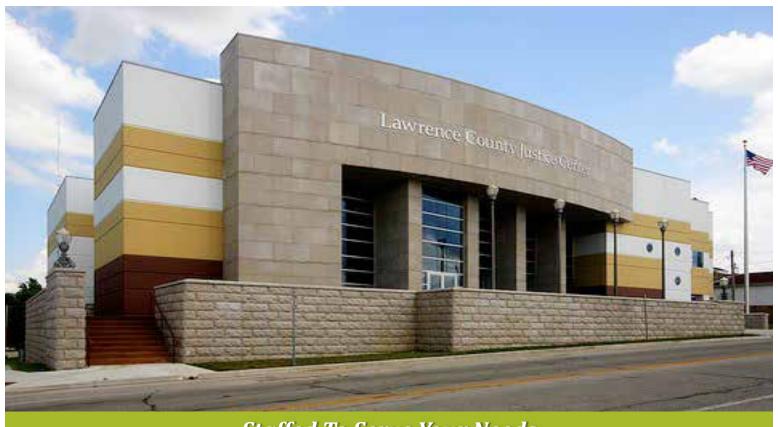
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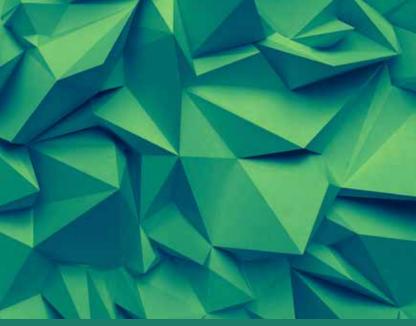




















April 13, 2015

County Employees Retirement Fund – A 2014 Year-End Report

Jim Atchison

Former Pemiscot County Presiding Commissioner

Editor's Note: Pursuant to SB 579, effective Aug. 28, 1994, CERF was established to provide a retirement benefit to eligible county employees. Prior to Aug. 28, 1994, the Missouri Local Government Employees Retirement System (LAGERS) was available in some counties, but not all.

An employee who is in LAGERS has a lower contribution rate than someone who is not in LAGERS. For this reason, a non-LAGERS employee gets a full CERF benefit, whereas a LAGERS employee gets two-thirds of the benefit.

Depending on the hire date and LAGERS status, contribution rates can be 0 percent, to 2, 4 or 6 percent. A county can choose to pay up to 4 percent for its employees.

CERF's vesting requirement is eight years of service in a CERF-eligible position with 1,000 hours or more each year. Eligible members can retire as early as age 55 with reduced benefits or age 62 with full benefits.

CERF provides a \$10,000 death benefit to eligible employees who die while actively employed.

I serve as one of the 10 members of our County Employees Retirement Fund (CERF) board of directors.

Nine categories of county office-holders have one representative each on the board and I represent commissioners. So there's also one board member representing auditors, assessors, county clerks, etc. Two other members of the CERF Board are appointed by the governor. Sheriffs and prosecuting attorneys are not represented because they have their own retirement plans and are not in CERF. However, the employees of sheriffs' offices and prosecuting attorneys' offices are in our plan.

I truly believe our plan is sound and well-managed. We have a staff of professional and dedicated

employees who take care of the daily running and administration of our plan. Also we hire an asset consulting group and an actuary. The consulting group helps our board monitor the performance of the 11 management companies with whom we invest CERF funds, and the consultants make recommendations when we feel changes need to be made as we seek to move funds from one management company to another. Our actuary tracks and evaluates our plan's performance and soundness as they relate to the solvency of the plan and compliance with IRS and GASB rules and regulations. The actuarial work provides assurances that the plan is performing appropriately and that our plan will always be able to provide the retirement benefits we expect and to which we are entitled.

While 2014 was not a year for the record books, like 2013 was, we did respectably well during the year and actually made positive progress in some areas. The total value of our plan increased by about \$16 million during the year, ending at \$431.6 million compared to \$415 million a year ago. That growth is net of paying all administrative expenses and distributing plan benefits of almost \$2 million each month to retirees or their surviving beneficiaries. A really significant accomplishment during the year was that in July our actuarial valuation showed that we are 76 percent funded. Our plan is only 20 years old and already being 76 percent funded is remarkable. Becoming 80 percent funded at some time in the future will be an important benchmark because it will give us the opportunity to look at the possibility of increasing benefits.

Our annual rate-of-return on investments was 4.61 percent in 2014. That rate may sound low, but the key thing to remember about



pension funds is they are long-term investors. CERF, as well as all pension funds, plans investments with a goal of providing benefits over the next 40 years and far beyond. Therefore, we do not chase short-term market gains, but we think we should take a slow and balanced approach to ensure CERF's long-term success. We have a tremendous diversity of the types of investments we have and adhere to the assumption that while they may not all do well in any particular year, that hopefully they won't all do poorly either.

I think the philosophy of the balanced and diversified approach is proved by the following rates of return that have been achieved. Our 3-year average rate-of-return is 12.62 percent, our 5-year is 10.34 percent, 10-year is 7.18 percent, and since the beginning of our plan (which was August of 1994), CERF's rate-of-return has been 9.17 percent.

Our plan ranks very high among other public pension funds nationwide. For the 10-year period ending Dec. 31, 2014, CERF was in the 17th percentile, or in other words our plan was in the top 17 percent of all plans nationwide.

We work to achieve our investment goals by diversifying our investments among 11 different management groups. The portfolio is reviewed monthly by the CERF staff and quarterly by the CERF board. Each of our quarterly meetings lasts

two days, and we follow written investment policies designed to achieve the highest possible returns while balancing how much risk is being assumed.

In addition to reviewing our plan's overall performance, at each quarterly meeting we have individuals from a couple of the management companies come to Jefferson City and meet with us faceto-face. We think the management of our board and staff coupled with the performance of the companies we hire is resulting in a fund that is stable, growing, and on track to fund benefits and be fiscally sound far into the future.

The state auditor and a legislative monitoring group both issued reports recently relative to all the public pension plans in the state. CERF earned good marks on both reports and most significantly did not appear on either group's "watch list," which means outside reviewers believe CERF is solidly funded and wellmanaged.

While the CERF Board is pleased with its historic return rates, there is always room for improvement. To that end, the board recently directed an Investment Committee to spend time reviewing all of our investment allocations and make recommendations to the board at a future meeting about possible changes to the policy. I am a member of that committee and will

be working to maximize the CERF fund returns in coming months and years.

In addition to the funds we employees put into the plan and the funds our counties put into the plan for our benefit, several other funds that go into our plan are collected in our courthouses. About \$20 million dollars of collector delinquent fees, assessor late fees, recorder document fees, and collector merchant fees benefited our plan in 2014.

I mentioned earlier that CERF distributes about \$2 million a month to retirees, but the plan also distributed over \$3.5 million in lump-sum payments in 2014. These were primarily refunds to non-vested members no longer employed by counties and to surviving beneficiaries of deceased members. Also included in that number for 2014, was \$240,000 paid to the beneficiaries of 24 county employees who died while actively employed by our counties.

Additionally, we continue to be able to provide a COLA each year and to make the maximum 50 percent match that is allowed on 457 Savings Plan contributions.

I hope all of you are taking advantage of CERF's 457 Savings Plan. If you are not, you are leaving free money on the table as we continue to be able to approve the above-

(Continued On Page 16)



(Continued From Page 15) mentioned match each year on the first 6 percent of an employee's salary he/she puts into his/her 457 plan.

Also the 457 Savings Plan has a "catch-up provision" that one can take advantage of if over 50 years old. This is an advantage to someone who was not able to save as much for retirement earlier in his career but is now able to set aside more. There is an allowable maximum that can be put into a 457 Plan each year, but the catch-up provision allows one to exceed that amount, if eligible, based upon age.

CERF has account specialists who can answer questions you might have. Just call the CERF office at (573) 632-9203. Also there are seven brochures that should be in every courthouse and will answer most questions a county employee might have. Many of you know Jim Elliston who travels for Great West and who

calls on our counties throughout the year. Jim was in every county last vear and in some more than once, as he made 153 county calls in 2014.

As I conclude I will say again, "I do believe we have a sound and well-managed retirement plan." We are conservative and have lots of diversification in the types of investments we hold. Yet we compare favorably to the other retirement plans in Missouri that benefit state, municipal, and public employees. Two years ago, the Show Me Institute evaluated and compared CERF with other public pension plans. Their conclusion was, that based upon the relationship between the risk and return achieved by CERF, that our performance was the best of those reviewed. We are proud of that evaluation and don't believe that assessment has changed.

During this year we are transitioning to a new actuarial company. We have had a long and excellent association with an individual who is reaching retirement age, so in 2014 we conducted a search for his replacement. Our retiring actuary and the new company are working together this year to ensure a smooth transition. Also, our software system was aging and a newer, more high-tech system was needed. We will be going live with a new system this summer that will permit authorized individuals to submit a lot of county information electronically through a county portal and permit all county employees to be more interactive through a member portal, if they so desire.

You and I, and our counties, put a lot of retirement dollars into CERF. We expect that our anticipated retirement benefits will be there for us when we are ready for them. I do believe CERF will be there for us.

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Win For Counties As Congress Extends SRS, Health Care Programs

Eryn Hurley

National Association of Counties

On April 14, 2015, the U.S. Senate overwhelmingly voted to pass H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, the so-called "Doc Fix" bill, which will extend funding for multiple federal programs important to counties, including the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and other health care programs. The legislation passed the chamber by a vote of 92 – 8. The U.S. House of Representatives previously passed the bill on March 26 by a vote of 392-37 before adjourning for the spring recess.

Under the legislation, SRS would be reauthorized for fiscal years 2014 and 2015. The measure authorizes \$500 million through the SRS program to support local schools, transportation infrastructure, emergency response and other services that are critical to counties. SRS funds will help more than 720 counties and 4,000 school districts across 41 states affected by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal lands. The bill also expedites SRS payments to counties by requiring the federal government to make payments within 45 days of the bill's enactment, and it provides greater flexibility for how counties may spend SRS funds.

Upon passage of H.R. 2 by the United States Senate, NACo Executive Director Matthew Chase noted, "This legislation is a significant victory for forest counties and their residents. We are very pleased that Congress is making an investment to support local schools, roads and public safety in communities across the country. Our partners on the Hill have heard the call echoing from

forest counties across the country. Counties look forward to putting these much-needed, long-overdue funds to work as quickly as possible."

In addition to extending the SRS program, the bill addresses several key health programs important to counties that include the following:

- Children's Health Insurance
 Program (CHIP): CHIP is a federalstate partnership that provides
 low-cost health coverage to more
 than 8 million children and pregnant
 women in families that earn income
 above Medicaid eligibility levels.
 Current funding for CHIP expires in
 September 2015 and H.R. 2 extends
 funding for two years.
- · Community Health Centers, National Health Service Corps, and Teaching Health Centers: Community health centers, known as federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), provide primary health care services to almost 23 million people at more than 9,000 sites in rural and urban areas. The National Health Service Corps helps bring health care professionals to underserved areas and the Teaching Health Centers program provides expanded residency training in local communities. Funding for each of these programs also expires this year and H.R. 2 extends funding for two years.

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program:

This program supports pregnant women and families and helps at-risk parents of pre-school children by using evidence-based, cost-effective models that improve maternal and child health, prevent child abuse and neglect, encourage positive parenting, and promote child development and school readiness.

- H.R. 2 provides funding for two additional years.
- Qualifying Individuals (QI)
 Program: QI is a Medicaid program
 to help low-income Medicare
 beneficiaries pay for their Medicare
 Part B premium. H.R. 2 permanently
 extends this program.
- Transitional Medical
 Assistance Program: This program
 allows low-income families to
 maintain Medicaid coverage for up
 to one year as they transition from
 welfare to work. The bill permanently
 extends this program.
- Disproportionate Share Hospitals (DSH): H.R. 2 also supports the financing and delivery of Medicaid services by delaying the scheduled reductions in payments to hospitals serving a disproportionate number of Medicaid beneficiaries and the uninsured, called **Disproportionate Share Hospitals** (DSH), by one year until 2018. Delaying these cuts further allows the 960 county-supported hospitals and others that serve Medicaid beneficiaries and the uninsured across the country to continue to stabilize local health care systems.

"Counties welcome this federal investment in services that will help millions of Americans," said Chase. "We applaud the House and Senate for working in a bipartisan manner to provide greater budgetary certainty to counties. This investment will help counties deliver essential services like infrastructure, education and health care."

Because the Senate was subsequently able to pass HR 2 without amendment, at press time the legislation was pending President Barack Obama's signature.

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An Officer And A Commissioner

Presiding Commissioner Clint Tracy moved to Cape Girardeau in 1979 with his parents and attended Cape Public Schools. An honor student, he was active in several clubs and sports during his high school career.

After graduating from Cape Central High School in 1992, Tracy attended the United States Naval Academy and graduated in 1996. He served onboard the USS Dubuque and USS Juneau from 1998 -2000 deploying in support of Operation Desert Fox off the coast of Kuwait and in humanitarian operations in East Timor, Indonesia. He then served as the Aviation Support Officer for Naval Station Rota, Spain, managing over \$5 million in repair parts for a reconnaissance squadron operating worldwide from 2000-2002.

In January 2007, he was recalled to active duty to serve with the Army Corps of Engineers in Baghdad, Iraq. While there, he administrated the \$530 million Development Funds for an Iraq account.

He returned to Cape in October 2007 and ran for the 158th State Representative District and was elected in 2008 with 76 percent of the vote. At the completion of his first year in the Missouri State Legislature, he won the Legislator of the Year Award for Homeland Security by passing a resolution discouraging President Obama from closing Guantanamo Bay and bringing prisoners into the US. He sat on the Transportation, Ways and Means, Agriculture Appropriations, Conservation and Natural Resources, Special Standing Committee on **Emerging Animal Issues, and Policy Development Committees.**

After serving one term in the House, he ran for presiding commissioner of Cape Girardeau County as his wife was expecting their second child. Tracy won a six-way primary with 37 percent of the vote and went on to win the general election with 73 percent of the popular vote in 2010. He was reelected with 76 percent of the vote in 2014.

As presiding commissioner, Tracy has been active in the Southeast Missouri Commissioners Association as its legislative liaison, and this led to a position on the County Commissioners board of directors. He was vocal in opposing statewide sales tax cuts that would have adversely affected county budgets. He also lobbied heavily for increases in prisoner reimbursement rates, increased assessors' fees, and local control.

Tracy presently holds the rank of commander in the Naval Reserve and serves as the executive officer for the Defense Finance and Accounting Reserve Unit stationed in Cleveland, Ohio.

In 2009, he graduated from the Naval War College Joint Professional Military Education course of study. Among various military awards and medals, Tracy has been awarded the Expert Rifle Marksman Medal, Expert Pistol Marksman Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, National Defense Medal, Global War on



Terror Medal, Iraqi Campaign Service Medal, an Army Commendation Medal, two Navy Commendation Medals, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Commissioner Tracy and his wife have two sons and reside in Cape Girardeau. Other past and present community organizations include Cape Girardeau Magnet, VFW Post 3838, American Legion Post 63, past president of the Cape Girardeau Area Habitat for Humanity Committee, Cape Girardeau High Noon Toastmasters, Cape Area Chamber of Commerce board of directors, Southeast Hospital Association, and the United Way Education Solutions Committee.

"We play and watch a lot of "Star Wars." My kids love it. One night during the weekend, we usually have a movie night with dinner and snacks, Chinese, pizza, ice cream and/ or popcorn. We also spend time with friends outside where we can grill and swim."



Tracy's sons Theodore (Teddy) is 5 and Oliver (Ollie) is 3.



Q: What made you want to join the Navy?

A: I saw "Top Gun" when I was 12, and I asked how I do that (fly jets)? The response I got was that I needed to go to the Naval Academy, and so I did.

Q: What was the most valuable lesson you brought from your Naval experience?

A: Every day at the Naval Academy you are challenged mentally, morally and physically. You learn a lot about yourself and others. Sometimes the most valuable lessons are ones that you learn by watching others, and how not to act, operate and lead.

Q: What was your first deployment?

A: I was forward deployed on the USS Dubuque LPD 8 right out of Supply Corps School. I spent 4 months on the ship before coming home to get married. On my

wedding night, my skipper called the house and spoke to the babysitter telling her I needed to return to the ship ASAP. He called the next day (Sunday), while my wife, our families and I were having brunch and opening gifts. He told me the ship was making an emergency deployment to the Persian Gulf (turned into Operation Desert Fox) and that I needed to be on a plane first thing Tuesday morning to catch the ship in Singapore. Needless to say, that didn't go over well. Moms were crying, and it was a mess. Fortunately, my new bride took it all in stride and persevered. It was a rough introduction to the Navy!

Q: Do you have any interesting naval stories?

A: So many adventures and anecdotes. One of my favorite was while in the middle of the Persian Gulf, one of my best friends from high school was flying helos off

the USS Hayler. I found out there was a flight from our ship over to his delivering parts. I ran up to the skipper's cabin and I told him with a grin that the ship's store was running low on chewing tobacco and if we ran out we'd be in jeopardy of inciting a mutiny. Furthermore, I relayed to him that we were in luck. The USS Hayler had some extra chewing tobacco they could transfer to us, but I'd have to catch the next flight over to pick it up. The next flight was in about 10 minutes. He wasn't too worried about the tobacco, but did give me permission to fly over. So, I geared up and rode over to the USS Hayler and spent the afternoon with an old friend. I then took a rigid hulled inflatable boat (rhib) back a few hours later.

Q: Why did you join the Naval reserve?

A: After six years on active duty, (Continued On Page 22)

"While I was in Baghdad, I noticed most kids running around without shoes. At the time, my wife was running a gift/invitation and graphics shop. We talked about it, and decided that she'd have a kids shoe drive. People donated new and lightly used kids shoes at her shop. Since most little kids grow out of their shoes before they wear them out, we thought it would be a great project. The response was overwhelming. She mailed me over 2,500 pairs of shoes! I then took out and dispersed the shoes around the city at orphanages, schools and other places. It was a great program and was much appreciated on the receiving end."



(Continued From Page 21)
we moved home to Missouri. I
wasn't ready to hang up my uniform,
so I joined the Naval Reserve in
2002. I am in my 19th year of
total service with 13 years in the
Reserves. I currently hold the rank of
Commander, serving as the Executive
Officer for the Defense Finance and
Accounting Service out of Cleveland,
Ohio. I've been recalled to active
duty once; in 2007 I spent the better
part of that year in Baghdad, Iraq.

Q: How did your experience in the Navy prepare you for the role of commissioner/ state representative?

A: The Naval Academy and the Services in general build leaders. There is a certain part of leadership that is natural talent. Some have more than others. However, there is a large portion that is learned, especially when you spend time around people that have developed leadership skills over time. I've learned a lot about leadership from mentors that I've had along the way. Public service is about leadership, which to me, boils down to identifying problems, taking initiative, and solving problems.

Q: How/Why did you become involved in politics?

A: Bill Emerson nominated me to attend the Naval Academy, and



through that process, I always knew that I wanted to be involved in politics. Realizing that I was starting a career in the Navy, I didn't know how or when politics could be a possibility until several years later when I was deployed to Iraq. While serving in Iraq, my state representative resigned. I called

back stateside to find out how to be considered for the position. I made a lot of calls to the local committee members explaining my situation and my desire to be considered for the nomination. I was not selected as the nominee, but once I returned, I ran and was elected as state representative the following year.

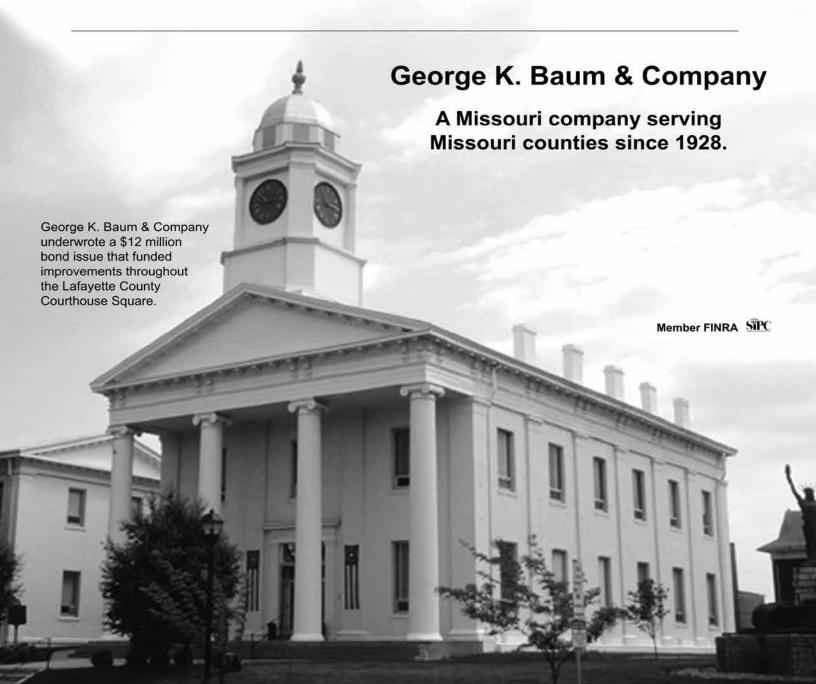




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Must Counties Use The State Rate?

State Mileage Rate Remains At 37 Cents Per Mile

At press time, the state mileage allowance remains at 37 cents per mile for privately owned automobiles on state business. Chap. 33.095, *RSMo*, permits any county (with the exception of 1st-class charter who have their own authority) to pay a mileage allowance at the rate authorized by the state Commissioner of Administration.

Due to Missouri's up-and-down budget problems, the state rate (one of the lowest in the nation) has remained at 37 cents since May 2010. For continued updated information, log on to oa.mo.gov and search for "state mileage rate."

Most counties do follow the state rate.

However, a previous legal opinion points to the fact that the county commission can set the rate at whatever level it chooses.

When Chap. 50.333.10 is read in light of the other statute (the one cited above), the county commission can set the rate at whatever level it chooses, especially in light of the introductory wording "notwithstanding any other law."

Even though there is a potential conflict, usually courts read the laws in light of compatibility, rather than conflict. Also, Chap. 33 is primarily the administrative power of OA over state agencies and state budget

administration, not regulation of other governmental entities. As such, the rate would be applicable to state moneys reimbursed to county governments under grants, etc., where vehicles are used for activity. Though it may be subject to more than one interpretation, neither statute has been interpreted by the courts.

Just as county governments may continue using the 37-cent per mile rate authorized by the state or establish their own rates, this same rate will apply when determining the rate for workers' comp cases (for an injured employee's reimbursement for travel expenses for medical treatment), as well as for witness reimbursement.

However, two new mandates have been passed subsequent to Chap. 33.095.

According to Chap. 57.280.1, *RSMo*, sheriffs who use their own vehicles for work purposes shall receive the mileage rate allotted by the IRS. Until Dec. 31, 2015, that amount is 57.5 cents per mile.

In addition, Chap. 50.333.10, *RSMo*, states that officeholders and employees shall be paid at the highest rate allotted to any officer. In counties where sheriffs use their own vehicles for work purposes, county officials are entitled to the IRS rate of 57.5 cents.

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Counties Honor Vital Service Organizations

In honor of the 3rd Annual County Day of Recognition for National Service on April 7, several Missouri counties acknowledged outstanding service groups in their counties. Every day, in counties across America, national service groups are tackling tough problems and strengthening communities.

Whether supporting food banks and homeless shelters, restoring parks, providing health services, strengthening public safety and juvenile justice services, tutoring and mentoring students, and managing community volunteers, national service members help local leaders diminish ongoing challenges.

The initiative, part of National County Government Month, was led by the National Association of Counties and the Corporation for National and Community Service.



Pictured from left to right, the **Cole County** Commission (Presiding Commissioner Sam Bushman, Associate Commissioner Jeff Hoelscher and Associate Commissioner Kris Scheperle) presented a resolution to The Special Learning Center's Director Debbie Hamler for the center's service and dedication to Cole County's youth. During the visit, Scheperle also read a book to the children. *Photo by Julie Smith, The Jefferson City News Tribune*.

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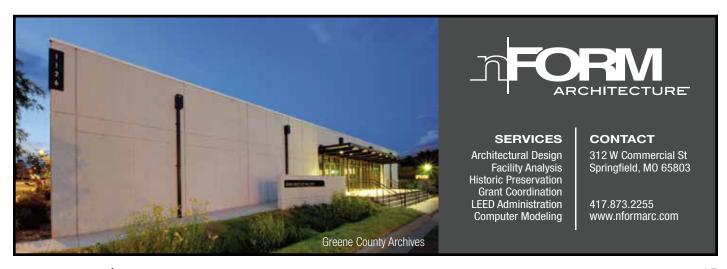
Photo by Steve Patton, The Daily Dunklin Democrat.

The **Dunklin County** Commission presented certificates of recognition at the courthouse to Jeannie Collins, director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), and Vicki Rhew, Senior Companion Program (SCP) director. Pictured from left are Associate Commissioner Jeanie Herbst, Collins, Presiding Commissioner Don Collins, Rhew, and Associate Commissioner Patrick McHaney. RSVP is a nonprofit organization helping people 55 and older put their skills and life experience to work in the community. Through the SCP, people age 60 and older provide assistance and friendship to homebound adults.

Pictured from left to right, the **Boone County Commission (Associate** Commissioner Janet Thompson, Presiding Commissioner Dan Atwill and Associate Commissioner Karen Miller) stand beside the 2015 Canstruction display. Canstruction is a nonprofit organization that holds annual design and build competitions to construct fantastic, giant-sized structures made entirely out of canned food, which is later donated. The Canstruction display in the photo was located in the Atrium of the Roger B. Wilson Boone County Government Center. All of the food was donated to the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri.



Photo courtesy of Boone County Commission.



Organizations Oppose EPA's Lowering Of Ozone Standards

The Missouri Petroleum Council and the Missouri Energy Forum participated in MAC's April 13 Legislative Conference to discuss the impact of the EPA's proposed National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to Missouri and our nation. MAC's resolution opposing more stringent ozone standards was overwhelmingly adopted in November. The speakers at this conference reinforced the calls for Missouri's state leaders. including the governor, to speak out against this EPA overreach and protect Missouri's counties, jobs and economy.

"If the EPA were to impose a projected non-attainment standard of 65 parts per billion, the negative impact on Missouri counties would be horrendous," said Peggy Kenney, Cedar County clerk. "This standard would place virtually all of Missouri's counties into a non-attainment category, and the economic impact to the smallest of counties and the largest counties in the state would be severe," said Kenney.

A recent study conducted by NERA Economic Consulting for the National Association of Manufactures estimates the total impact of such a stringent standard would total \$18 billion from 2017 – 2040 and result in the loss of over 29,000 jobs annually in Missouri.

"We need to continue to protect public health without jeopardizing jobs and economic growth in Missouri," said Ryan Rowden, executive director of the Missouri Petroleum Council. "The EPA's own data shows that ozone levels have already fallen 33 percent since 1980 and 18 percent since 2000. The current regulations they are looking to replace haven't even been fully implemented yet. It's another

case of a costly solution without a problem."

Roger Martella, co-leader of the environmental practice group at Sidley Austin LLP and former EPA General Counsel spoke at the conference and addressed the serious repercussions of altering the ozone standards nationally.







What Could New Ozone Regulations Cost Missouri?

\$18 Billion Gross State Product Loss from 2017 to 2040

29,532 Lost Jobs or Job Equivalents¹ per Year

\$9 Billion in Total Compliance Costs

\$700 Drop in Average Household Consumption per Year

\$886 Million More for Residents to Own/Operate Their Vehicles Statewide (2017 to 2040)

¹Total job equivalents equal total labor income change divided by the average annual income per job.

Expensive New Ozone Regulation Will Put the Squeeze on

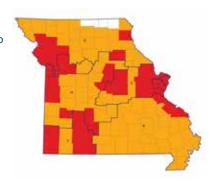
Missouri

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new ozone regulation could be the most expensive ever issued on the American public, costing the nation \$140 billion annually,2 according to a new analysis by NERA Economic Consulting. This regulation will make it harder to get the necessary permits to manufacture goods and build critical infrastructure like roads and highways in Missouri, while increasing the cost of energy for every business and household in the state. The picture gets even worse for the counties in the red and orange in the maps in figure 1. In these areas, manufacturers won't be able to expand without a reduction of emissions or shutdown of operations from other plants in the area. Plans for new plants and expansion at existing plants will be shelved. Federal highway funds could freeze and economic growth could grind to a halt.

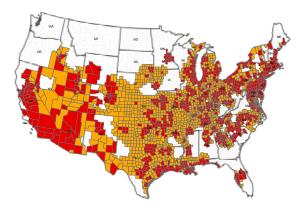
²This estimate only accounts for the costs and related economic impacts of bringing the country into attainment with a 65 pbb ozone standard. It does not account for any additional costs incurred by businesses complying with "maintenance" requirements for attainment areas. This estimate also does not account for any potential curtailment of energy production in nonattainment areas. In NERA's July 2014 report measuring a 60 ppb ozone standard, they found that a significant curtailment of natural gas production in nonattainment areas could further reduce GDP by \$90 billion per year and cost an additional 1.4 million job-equivalents per year.

Figure 1: Projected Nonattainment with a 65 Parts Per Billion (ppb) Ozone Standard

- Areas with monitors
- Unmonitored but likely to exceed 65 ppb



Projected Nonattainment in Missouri (65 ppb)



Projected Nonattainment in the United States (65 ppb)

Source: URS



Sullivan County Eliminates Townships

Sullivan County passed an initiative on the April 2015 ballot to abolish their township governments. There are still 21 counties in the state of Missouri that operate under the township organization.

Townships were organized back in the late 1800s when it took half a day to travel to the county seat. The current township counties are divided into sub-county units, whose functions include road construction and maintenance, property tax collection, and township election filings and certifications.

There are five township officers: a three-member policy board, made up of two board members and a trustee (who also serves as treasurer), a clerk, and a collector.

"In the past, townships served the areas well, but now they are an outdated form of government," Sullivan County **Presiding Commissioner Chris May** said. "A number of years ago, in smaller counties with larger rural populations, the township would have board members that wouldn't serve for life; but now with smaller rural populations, that isn't the case. Also, in the past there was a larger population of volunteers that would help maintain the roads."

Sullivan County tried to abolish the townships in the early 1990s but was unsuccessful. Many counties have struggled with the abolishment of townships. May said it is often difficult because the county township which surrounds the county seat often has the most voters and money. They are afraid those funds will be spread among the rest of the county and won't stay local.

"Getting rid of our townships allows for more uniform coverage of all township roads. Some of the townships barely had enough funds to maintain the roads and their equipment."

Abolishing the townships does present a problem. The taxes that were being collected in the township do not transfer to the county. Counties that abolish townships will have to go to voters once again and ask for the taxes to be reinstated. The legislature addressed that this past

session by passing HB 613, which allows counties to continue to collect a property tax on a county-wide basis for road and bridge purposes for either one year following the abolishment of the townships or until the county voters have approved a property tax for such purposes.

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