



# The Tesson Times

A Publication of the  
Tesson Ferry Township Republican Club  
Volume 20 #11 November 2015

## November Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, November 12th, 2015  
**Time:** 7:00 pm  
**Place:** Abiding Savior Lutheran Church  
School Cafeteria



Many apologies for the delay in publishing the November newsletter. We were hoping to be able to include the details of our Christmas party plans in this newsletter. When plans are finalized, we will send you the pertinent information as soon as possible.

Our regular meeting will be November 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Abiding Savior Lutheran church, 4355 Butler Hill Road. (North of the Schnucks shopping center at Highway 55 and Butler Hill Road.) The cafeteria is located on the lower level of the church and is accessible by elevator. Park in the back of the church to enter.



## October Meeting Highlights

The first speaker for the evening was Brittany Wagner from the Show Me Institute. She addressed the general ways in which property tax increases can affect school districts and some questions to ask regarding this particular tax increase. There was no speaker representing the pro-tax side of the Mehlville School District "Proposition R" since the board did not feel it was worth their effort to speak to this group.

Brittany's background is in education policy for the only free-market think tank in Missouri. She was a teacher and had done her student teaching in the Oakville district. She recalled being asked to go door-to-door asking for people to support a property tax increase when she was a student in the Bayless school district. She presented three different scenarios regarding a tax increase:

- |                            |                                     |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Increase property taxes | Home values decrease                | Decreased value from taxation |
| 2. Increase property taxes | Home values increase                | Increased value from taxation |
| 3. Keep taxes lower        | Improve schools through other means |                               |

Mehlville has the second lowest property tax rate in St. Louis County; however, the question then becomes: “Is that a good reason to raise taxes?” Some other pertinent questions should be: (1) Does the tax rate accurately reflect the quality of the schools? (2) Will the additional funds actually result in an increase the value of your property? In comparison to other school districts, Mehlville’s performance is in the middle. Math scores are not good. College readiness scores are pretty good. College remediation rates are not bad. Overall, Mehlville is doing well for gifted students, but could do better for struggling students.

Proposition R is supposed to fund four different objectives: (1) early intervention for struggling students; (2) retraining qualified teachers; (3) laptop computers for every student; and (4) addressing infrastructure needs.

The first three policy changes have been tried before. With early intervention, there is a wide variation in the effectiveness of different schools in the district in meeting the special needs of struggling students. Why not shift students to the school that would best fit their needs? (2) Retaining teachers in math and science might be better addressed by paying teachers in these specialties a higher salary base. (3) Finally, does every student in the district actually need a laptop computer? Why not target those who need them the most?

Jim Murphy addressed the group. His purpose was to offset the one-sided media coverage. One assertion has been that there have been no new revenues since the 1980’s; however the latest revenue projections show a shortfall of under \$500,000 which is considered revenue neutral. In 2000, the budget was \$78 million. In 2015 it was \$107 million or \$29 million more. The school budget has inflated by 2.7% per year while the general inflation rate has been 1.8% per year.

Similarly, DESE (Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education) figures show the following:

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Teacher/Student ratio:</b>	20:1	17:1
<b>Administrator/Student ratio:</b>	299:1	309:1
<b>Avg. Mehlville Teacher’s Salary</b>	\$48,564	\$56,946
<b>Avg. State Teacher’s Salary</b>	\$40,463	\$48,479

Proposition R is not a tax increase; rather it’s a bailout for wasteful spending and bad management. The board will not admit that they have made bad decisions. You don’t tax people just because you can. You tax for actual needs. The latest example of this is the board’s insistence on having a November election just for Proposition R which

will cost taxpayers \$88,000. If they had waited until the April elections when school board members were running, the cost would have been negligible.

**Report of Standing Committees:**

Matt Chellis moved that the club mail a postcard with the facts against Proposition R to a targeted set of likely voters in the Mehlville school district election. This motion passed (19/20)

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Election of TFTRC board members for 2016 will take place. Anyone interested in running for an office should contact one of the members of the board. There is no speaker lined up at this time.

**Committeeman Report :** John Judd reported that Dean Plocher is running in a special election for state representative from his district. Josh Foster is working with this campaign. Volunteers are needed to go door-to-door and to man phone banks. Also, contact Gary Fuhr if you want to serve as an election judge.

John endorsed the following candidates in the 2016 election:

President	Ted Cruz
Governor	Eric Greitens
Lieutenant Governor	Bev Randles
Treasurer	Eric Schmitt
Attorney General	Josh Hawley
15 <sup>th</sup> District State Senate	Andrew Koenig

The Tesson caucus will be held the Saturday after the April school board elections (April 8<sup>th</sup>)



## Coming Events

- **Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:30 pm**, reception for Bev Randles, candidate for MO Lt. Gov. 1034 S. Brentwood Blvd., Ste 1700, STL 63117. See following article.
- **Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm**. TFTRC meeting at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church. Debate over Mehlville School District tax increase.
- **Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 pm**. TFTRC board meeting.

## **Bev Randles for Lieutenant Governor**

I am writing to extend a personal invitation to you to join constitutional conservative Bev Randles in her campaign to be our next Lieutenant Governor. Bev favors more income tax relief for our Missouri families and wants to make state government smaller, more efficient and less burdensome on taxpayers and job creators. She favors tort reform, educational opportunity and opposes Common Core. She is pro-life and in favor of our second amendment rights. Please visit her website: [www.BevForLG.com](http://www.BevForLG.com).

Her local fundraising event starts at 5:30 pm on November 10th 2015 at *Vue 17*, 1034 S. Brentwood, Ste. 1700, St. Louis Mo 63117.(Across from the Galleria) The suggested donation is \$25 with checks payable to *Missourians for Randles*, PO Box 11099, Kansas City MO 64119. You can also RSVP at [Karen@BevForLG.com](mailto:Karen@BevForLG.com).

If you want to carpool with us from South County call us at 314-416-4605 or 314-852-1700. Thanks for your consideration.

*John Judd-Committeeman*

## **Zina Hackworth Leading State-Wide Push for Ted Cruz**

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, Presidential Candidate U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz announced statewide leaders for the Cruz for President African-American coalition. The African American Coalition has nine State Level Leaders across the country including Tesson Ferry Township's own committeewoman, **Zina Hackworth**. Zina is a member of [L.E.A.R.N.](#), the nation's largest black Pro-Life organization. She is also a member of [The National Black Pro-Life Coalition](#). In 2006, Zina founded This Race Will Self-Destruct and More Rebellious Members, a Pro-Life outreach to black pastors.

National Co-Chairs include Elbert Guillory, Robin Armstrong, and Bishop Robert Smith. **Elbert Guillory** represents District 24 of the Louisiana State Senate. **Robin Armstrong** is a physician practicing medicine in Texas. **Bishop Robert Smith** is the Founder of Total Outreach for Christ Ministries, Inc. and Word of Outreach Christian Center and Academy, which is headquartered in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The other state level Leaders include the following. **Glen Robinson** (South Carolina) is a pastor and Christian television show host. **Nse Ekpo** (South Carolina)

serves as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman of the South Carolina GOP. **Darrell C. Porter** (Nevada) is a non-denominational, full gospel evangelist. **Troy Towns** (Alabama) is the Senior Vice Chairman of the Alabama GOP. **Calvin Morrow**, (Missouri) is a home school father and the President of the Lebanon Area Homeschoolers. **Henry Childs**, (Texas) is the elected State Republican Executive Committeeman for Texas Senate District 19. **Brenda Battle Jordan**, (Michigan) is an active member of the Genesee County Tea Party and Genesee County Republican Executive Committee. **Ken Jordan**, (Michigan) is a long time Genesee County Republican Executive Committee member.

Zina asks for our prayers and support in her new role. Congratulations Zina. We're so proud of you.

## Eric Greitens for Governor



I am writing to extend a personal invitation to you to join with me in supporting Eric Greitens for Governor. Eric wants to ban gifts from lobbyists and apply term limits to every statewide elected official. He'll oppose tax increases and eliminate waste and fraud in government. He's pro-life and a strong supporter of the Second Amendment. He'll fight to protect the religious liberties of all Missourians. As a former Navy Seal, Eric will make it his mission to make Missouri the best state in America for veterans to live, work, build businesses and raise their families. He has experience in this as the head of The Mission Continues. He favors Right to Work. He wants to reform our welfare system and improve education. He can beat the democrat.

To join his team go to [www.greitensformissouri.com](http://www.greitensformissouri.com) or @EricGreitens. Thanks for your consideration.

*John Judd - Committeeman*



## Make Your Republican of the Year Nominations

It's that time of year. We need your input for Republican of the Year. The flyer is attached to your e-mail message. Please return the forms to R.O.Y., 5040 Kirkey Court, St. Louis, MO 63128 or e-mail your response to [riedsrock@charter.net](mailto:riedsrock@charter.net).



## Looking for Volunteers

You can help a great deal by volunteering to serve on a committee. These are short-term commitments that make a big difference in helping things run smoothly. We need three people to serve on the **audit committee**. These people review the books kept by our treasurer to make sure things are properly accounted for. Anyone willing to help with the **Christmas Party** would be greatly appreciated. Finally, we need people who are willing to help with the **spring fundraiser** which is our main fundraising event of each year. If you are willing to serve on any of these committees, please contact president Dan Ried at 845-2762.



## Good Book to Read

It's difficult to keep track of all the Republican candidates running in the presidential primaries, but there are a few who stand out in the crowd. Ted Cruz is one with sterling conservative credentials backed by action. His autobiography, *A Time for Truth*, tells of his father's struggles in totalitarian Cuba and his flight to the United States. His dad was penniless when he arrived but through hard work and intelligence he and his wife built a successful data processing company. Their son inherited their intelligence coupled with a passion for constitutional law. Ted graduated from Princeton followed by Harvard Law School after which he served as a clerk for Chief Justice William Rehnquist. He worked for the George W. Bush presidential campaign in 2000 and assisted in the legal proceedings during the Florida recount. He served as Solicitor General in Texas before launching his campaign for US Senator in 2012, his first elected office. Cruz made a promise to protect the freedom and best interests of the 26 million Texans he represents and he ruffled a lot of feathers in both political parties in keeping that promise. He gives the rest of the story regarding the government shutdown and filibusters that he led and he outlines what his priorities are for his presidency. He is realistic about the problems this country faces and understands the frustrations middle class voters have with the political class, yet he has an optimism that inspires confidence. Find out why Ted Cruz is the best conservative candidate for president. Check out his book at St. Louis County Library.

*Christy Hessel – Newsletter Editor*

# Election Results



Since this newsletter is delayed and the election is over, we can celebrate Dean Plocher's election victory for state representative for the 89<sup>th</sup> district. We're happy that the seat remained Republican and that the people of the 89<sup>th</sup> district will be represented by a true conservative. Congratulations to Dean and to his campaign manager, Josh Foster for running a successful campaign. Thanks also to all who worked in the campaign to make this a success. We also mark the overwhelming approval of the Mehlville school district tax increase. There were supporters on both sides of this issue for a variety of reasons. Hopefully people will come together in a civil manner and work together to make the Mehlville School District the best it can be. One of the marks of a good community should be the way in which its citizens treat one another. So let's get on with the work of making Mehlville School District as good as the Mehlville Fire District.



## It's Your Choice

Life is full of decisions and mature adults are characterized by their actions, the choices they make and the manner in which they reach them. Mature adults are guided by reason rather than emotions. That would include prioritizing projects that are more practical and urgently needed while leaving discretionary projects to be completed as funding becomes available. A prudent homeowner would replace an old furnace before adding a home entertainment room to his house. A school district should do likewise.

Mature adults learn from their past successes and failures as well as that of others. They also analyze problems in depth and come up with a variety of solutions. Assuming that more money is the only solution for a financial situation overlooks the spending and the priorities that contributed to it. How do other people or organizations manage resources more effectively? What can we learn from them?

Mature adults resolve their differences through discussion and negotiation. That would include listening to differing opinions and expressing differences in a civil manner. We will always be encountering situations in which we differ with another person or group. We can deal with people pleasantly or we can act like jerks, again it's a choice.

Mature adults take responsibility for their words and actions. This includes telling the truth about situations rather than distorting the facts or lying in order to further one's own agenda. This also includes using social media as a means to trash people's reputations or bully their family members. A mature self-respecting person doesn't need to feed his own ego at someone else's expense. That's something that should have been left in junior high school.

Every day presents each one of us a number of situations in which we need to make a choice. Do I choose to act like a mature adult or something less appealing? It's a choice.

*Christy Hessel, Newsletter Editor*

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