

Letter to the Editor, "The Kansas City Star" July 26, 2014

NO ON ROAD TAX

Misguided is the best way to describe the proposed Missouri sales-tax increase to pay for roads and bridges. The League of Women Voters of Kansas City, Jackson, Clay and Platte Counties and the League of Women Voters of Missouri strongly oppose this Aug. 5 ballot measure.

Three key issues are at play here:

1. This proposed sales-tax increase would be levied on a lot of taxable goods that people need to live their daily lives, whether they use roads and bridges or not. This is a regressive tax – one that hurts those on fixed incomes, the poor and the middle class. Moreover, people who drive fuel-efficient vehicles would be taxed as much as people who do not.
2. A tax on fuels that power vehicles that use the roads and bridges would be more appropriate and fair.
3. The Missouri legislature's massive tax cuts do not make sense. This tax proposal indicates that our state cannot afford basic government functions like building roads and bridges without resorting to regressive sales taxes.

Missouri needs to stop the tax-cut grandstanding and focus on the true cost of running a state and meeting basic needs, including roads and bridges.

Linda Vogel Smith, President

League of Women Voters, Kansas City, Jackson, Clay and Platte Counties.