

## **Chamber Board Opposes Proposition A on November 5 Ballot**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce*

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The Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted to oppose Proposition A, an initiative on the November 2024 statewide ballot that would raise Missouri's minimum wage and introduce mandatory paid sick leave for all employers.

Proposition A proposes raising Missouri's minimum wage to \$13.75 per hour in 2025, with incremental increases until reaching \$15 per hour in 2026, and inflationary increases starting in 2027. It would also require all employers to provide one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked, with certain provisions for the use of sick time.

The Chamber's Legislative Policy Committee, comprised of diverse industry and political perspectives, conducted a thorough review of the issue and heard from both proponents and opponents of Proposition A. This review resulted in a position recommendation brought to the Chamber board.

Ultimately, the ballot measure would have a negative financial and operational impact on the business community by prohibiting employers from making decisions for their own workforce. Furthermore, the paid sick time provision holds businesses to stringent requirements with difficult compliance mechanisms, and further opens employers up to civil and criminal legal ramifications for non-compliance, even when acting in good faith.

"Decisions about wages and benefits should be made by employers in response to market demands, not through one-size-fits-all mandates," said Brian Hammons, chairman of the Springfield Chamber Board and president of Hammons Black Walnuts. "Proposition A ties the hands of employers, particularly small businesses, who are already offering competitive wages and benefits to attract and retain talent."

The Chamber's opposition aligns with its long-standing policy of advocating for economic growth driven by market conditions rather than government mandates. The Chamber emphasizes that opposing Proposition A is not an opposing stance against workforce investments and opportunities to remain competitive as a state, but rather an effort to preserve a business-friendly environment that fosters job creation, encourages economic growth, and allows businesses to determine policies for their own workforce.

"We're grateful for the work of the Legislative Policy Committee and Board of Directors, as their engagement in our member-driven process gives us the opportunity to identify the most pressing needs of our members," said Matt Morrow, president of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce. "This process identified several challenges within Proposition A, specifically the paid sick time compliance and enforcement mechanisms, which ultimately present significant concerns for the business community."

As businesses adapt to changing workforce needs, the Chamber remains committed to supporting policies that balance the interests of both employers and employees.

For more information about the Chamber's position on Proposition A, please visit [springfieldchamber.com/votereducation](http://springfieldchamber.com/votereducation) or contact [tiffany@springfieldchamber.com](mailto:tiffany@springfieldchamber.com).

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Chamber President, Matt Morrow and Chamber Board Chairman, Brian Hammons will be available for comment, Tuesday, Oct. 22 from 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. CST. To schedule an interview time, please contact Tiffany Batdorf at 405-816-8012 or [tiffany@springfieldchamber.com](mailto:tiffany@springfieldchamber.com) prior to 10:30 a.m.

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The Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce is a catalyst for positive change, uniting businesses and community partners to create a vibrant and prosperous Southwest Missouri. With a legacy dating back to 1919, we champion economic development, workforce solutions and a business-friendly environment that benefits everyone.