



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
RICK BRATTIN
124TH DISTRICT**



Committees

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**Majority Floor Whip
Freshman Class President**

Redistricting – Veto Override

A long process came to an end this week when the Missouri House and Senate joined together to override Governor Nixon's veto of our legislative redistricting map. It was the first successful veto override in Missouri since 2003.

Despite the fact that our map was supported by 8 of our state's 9 current congressmen, and was backed by both Republicans and Democrats, Governor Nixon decided to veto it.

This week we stood up to the Governor and sent a clear message – we will not allow you to veto legislation for personal reasons – especially when it is supported by both sides of the aisle.

While the Senate has enough Republican members to override the Governor's vetoes without Democrats, the House relied on bi-partisan support of the legislative plan to overcome the Governor's veto.

Overriding a veto requires 109 of 163 members in the Missouri House, or a 2/3rds majority. As there are only 105 Republicans in the House this session, Democrats have to join in for a veto override to be successful.

With this vote we sent a clear message to the Governor; members of his own party are willing to stand up with us to continue to move Missouri forward. We will not allow the Governor to hold our state hostage with the legislative veto.

You can view the final, approved version of the new congressional map here:

<http://kc.citizen-publications.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/missouri-redistricting-map.jpg>

Voter Identification

In the 2005 legislative session Missouri passed into law the requirement that individuals present photographic identification when they vote in person. This was in response to the public perception that something odd had happened in St. Louis during the 2004 presidential election and that in several counties - there were more individuals on the registered voting lists than people who

actually lived there.

The Missouri Supreme Court said that this requirement was unconstitutional under state law, because voting is a fundamental right under our state constitution, and one or two named individuals in the case may have a hard time getting the photographic identification required to vote.

Voting is a fundamental right. It should be protected to the fullest extent of the law. One way to protect the right to vote is to make sure that everyone's vote counts equally. When individuals vote illegally, it reduces the value of the legally cast ballots – as they literally have less power.

Thus, our voting identification measure is designed to protect Missourian's fundamental right to vote. The Missouri Supreme Court still doesn't agree, so we're going to poll the people.

At the next statewide election, you will have the opportunity to vote on SJR 2. This is an amendment to our state constitution that would allow early voting, and also would grant the legislature the power to specifically require voters to present photographic identification at the polls.

We think requiring identification protects those of us who vote legally from those that don't. The courts don't agree. On this issue, you get to decide. I hope that you'll choose to protect our right to vote by amending our constitution to allow us to require photographic identification for voting.

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