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June 30, 2014

OPINION LETTER NO. 94-2014

The Honorable Jason Kander
Missouri Secretary of State
James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center
600 West Main Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Secretary Kander:

You have submitted a proposed fair ballot language statement for House Joint Resolution No. 72 relating to the governor's budgetary authority. The fair ballot language statement, prepared pursuant to § 116.025, RSMo, is as follows:

A **“yes”** vote will amend the Missouri Constitution regarding the requirements placed on the governor for proposing a state budget and for withholding money appropriated in the budget passed by the legislature. This amendment prohibits the governor from reducing funding passed by the general assembly without receiving legislative consent, and provides certain other restrictions on the governor's ability to increase or decrease line items in the budget. This amendment further prohibits the governor from proposing a budget that relies on revenue from legislation that has not yet passed in the general assembly.

A **“no”** vote will not amend the Missouri Constitution regarding the requirements placed on the governor

The Honorable Jason Kander
Page 2

for proposing a state budget and for withholding money appropriated in the budget passed by the legislature.

If passed, this measure will have no impact on taxes.

Pursuant to § 116.025, RSMo, we approve the legal content and form of the proposed fair ballot language statement.

Because our review of the fair ballot language statement is mandated by statute, no action we take with respect to such review should be construed as an endorsement of the joint resolution, nor as the expression of any view regarding the objectives of its proponents.

Very truly yours,



CHRIS KOSTER
Attorney General