For Immediate Release  
October 6, 2022  
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Re: Missouri NAACP Launches Election Score Card, tells members to VOTE NO on all amendments this November

(Jefferson City)-- The Missouri State Conference of NAACP has issued a scorecard as it relates to the amendments and constitutional questions coming before Missouri voters this November. Missouri NAACP suggests voting no on all amendments proposed and further suggests that if we stand together with our Votes, we can change the course of this election.

The Missouri State Conference of the NAACP says vote NO!

Four amendments and one constitutional question will be on the ballot in Missouri on November 8. The NAACP offers a simple scorecard with reasoning to substantiate its recommendations.

We urge members to Vote NO on all amendments and whether a constitutional question convention should be called. The importance of voting now cannot be understated. Regarding Amendment 4, Kansas City is still under police control from Jefferson City. That concept alone is based on racist dogma that goes back generations. Additionally, our communities have been lied to about the effects of Amendment Three, also known as Legal MO, which purports to legalize marijuana but extends the criminalization of possession in the Missouri state constitution, the permanent exclusion of minorities from selling cannabis. “For too long, money and interest have misused political power and taken advantage of working families. Missouri NAACP has and does stand for individuals and families,” says Nimrod Chapel, Jr., President, the State Conference of NAACP. What has been touted as a purported advance to reduce criminal convictions related to marijuana only places that criminal provision in the Missouri constitution.
Marijuana possession should not be a constitutional crime. Additionally, for years now, Black people, other minorities, and people who have been criminalized by marijuana laws in the past have been unable to enter the medical marijuana market. That is not right. In an effort to prevent the permanent exclusion of minorities from the cannabis industry in the state of Missouri, the NAACP calls upon every voter to reject the criminalization of marijuana possession, de facto racist regulation of the cannabis market, and the wool being pulled over our eyes by the supporters of Amendment 3.

Likewise, questions on whether or not the Missouri state treasurer can utilize its publicly held resources or whether the National Guard should be controlled in a different department fail to address long-lasting issues about the role of discrimination in state government, the fair utilization of state resources or even recent lawsuits filed to prohibit the silencing of tax voters and Working Families in Missouri. A NO vote will protect your families from misdirection, misuse, and mismanagement. Vote NO on all four amendments plus the constitutional question this November.

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.

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