

# House Primary Guide: Southwest Missouri

Prepared June 10, 2022

### About Missouri Scout

*Missouri Scout* is a private news service providing political intelligence and Call. Started in 2007, *Missouri Scout* has become the must-read tip-sheet for Missouri state politics.

Monday through Friday, subscribers receive *Daily Updates* that include rumors, overlooked facts, and analysis about current events. These updates are almost entirely fresh dispatches with information that have yet to be reported anywhere else.

Saturday, MOScout publishes *The Weekender*. It contains the exclusive *MOScout Weekly Poll*, which provides opinion surveys on timely topics and races. Polling is conducted by Titus Bond at Remington Research; *The Hallway Index*, a survey of Missouri lobbyists which gives a look at sentiment from “inside the bubble;” and the ever-popular *Who Won the Week*.

On Sundays, subscribers receive *The Sunday6*, an enlightening collection of graphs, charts and other visuals from the week.

Subscribers may also opt-in to the *Weekly Summary* which they may forward to clients and colleagues, and *1<sup>st</sup> Draft* text messages, an advance brief of an upcoming story.

Subscribers include lobbyists and government relations executives, but also activists, consultants, legislators, and donors. The cost is \$985/year. Monthly subscriptions are also available. If you'd like to know more about subscribing, send me an email at [dave@moscout.com](mailto:dave@moscout.com).

### About Drebes



In addition to *Missouri Scout*, Dave Drebes was founder of *Arch City Chronicle*. According to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, it was “the industry newsletter for the Lou’s political insiders.” He was named one of St. Louis’ *Most Influential People* (2007), received the *Media Award* from the Missouri Association for Social Welfare (2006), the *President’s Award* from the Metropolitan Press Club of St. Louis (2006). It has been a long time since he has been awarded anything. Drebes also writes a regular column in the *St. Louis Business Journal* covering Missouri state politics.

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### Please Note

Candidate are listed according to ballot order.

Incumbents have asterisks (\*) next to their names.

Only Republicans and Democrats are covered (sorry Greens, Libertarians etc).

All the information contained in this reference guide has been obtained by sources believed to be reliable, but there is no guarantee of such, and you are urged to verify the information for yourself.

Forecasts of races will change. Omissions, corrections, fundraising totals etc will be updated. Please consult Daily Updates for most current information.

Subscriptions to the Daily Updates are available at <https://moscout.com/subscribe>.

## Overview

There are 27 House districts in the area I'm calling Southwest Missouri. Of those 27 districts, there are 8 primaries. They are almost all Republican primaries. Each of these gets a closer look in the following pages.

In this report...

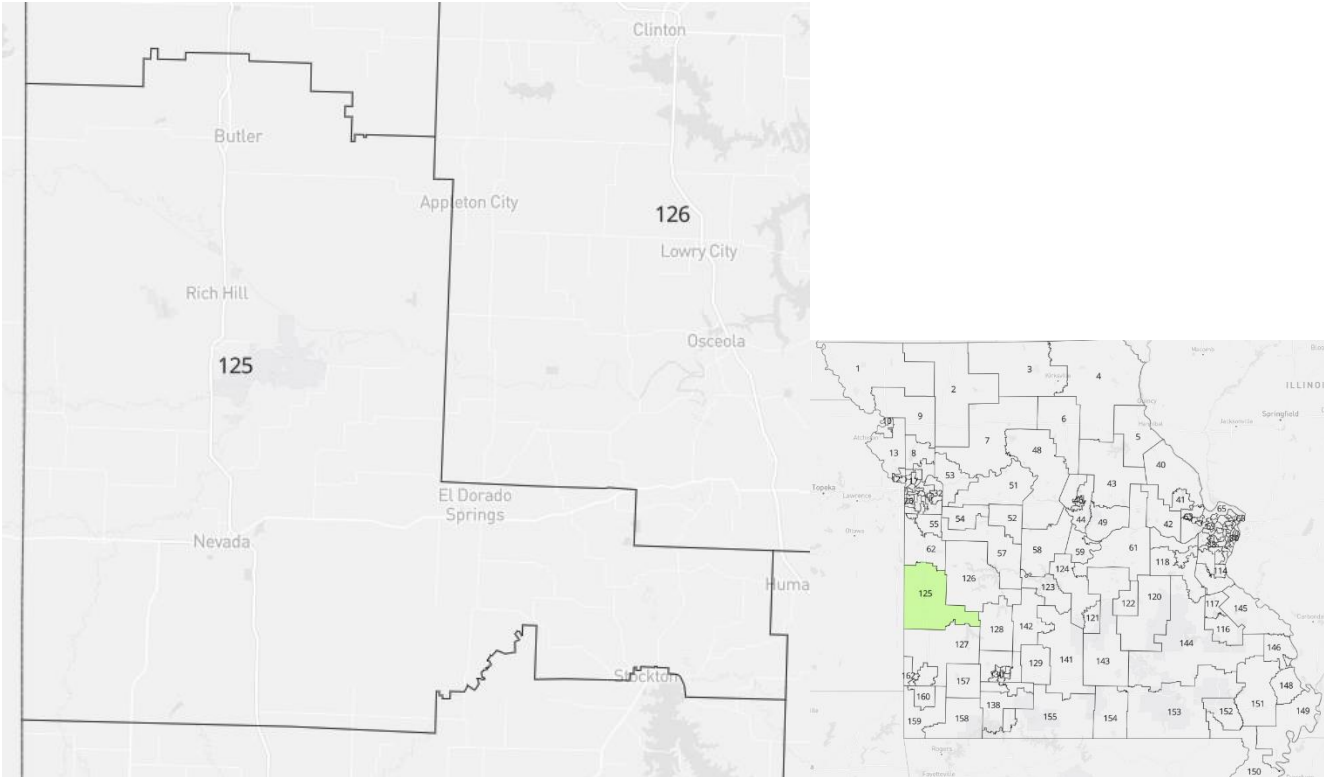
- House 125 – Open seat. Three-way Republican primary.
- House 126 – Incumbent Jim Kalberloh challenged.
- House 137 – Open seat. Two-way Republican primary.
- House 140 – Open seat. Two-way Republican primary.
- House 142 – Incumbent Jeff Knight challenged.
- House 156 – Democratic primary. Rep. Brian Seitz is the incumbent.
- House 157 – Incumbent Mitch Boggs challenged.
- House 161 – Incumbent Lane Roberts challenged.

Other districts in this area...

- House 127 – Rep. Ann Kelley unopposed in primary. She has a general election opponent.
- House 128 – Rep. Mike Stephens unopposed in primary. He has a general election opponent.
- House 129 – Rep. John Black unopposed.
- House 130 – Rep. Bishop Davidson unopposed.
- House 131 – Rep. Bill Owen unopposed.
- House 132 – Rep. Crystal Quade unopposed in primary. She has a general election opponent.
- House 133 – Open seat. Neither party has a primary.
- House 134 – Rep. Alex Riley unopposed in primary. He has a general election opponent.
- House 135 – Rep. Betsy Fogle unopposed in primary. She has a general election opponent.
- House 136 – Rep. Craig Fishel unopposed in primary. He has a general election opponent.
- House 138 – Rep. Brad Hudson unopposed.
- House 139 – Rep. Bob Titus unopposed.
- House 141 – Rep. Hannah Kelly unopposed.
- House 155 – Rep. Travis Smith unopposed.
- House 158 – Rep. Scott Cupps unopposed.
- House 159 – Rep. Dirk Deaton unopposed.
- House 160 – Rep. Ben Baker unopposed.
- House 162 – Rep. Bob Bromley unopposed.
- House 163 – Rep. Cody Smith unopposed.

## District 125

Open seat. Three-way Republican primary.  
Partisan Lean: +56R



**Andrew Hurt**



[From his website:](#) Andrew Hurt grew up in the Midwest. He spent three years on the mission field in Ireland with his family before coming home to a small farm in rural Missouri. After graduating high school, Andrew went to the International ALERT Academy in Texas. Upon his advancement from Basic Training, he received certification and training in wildland firefighting, structural firefighting, high angle rescue, disaster relief, and went through the Police Academy of Underwater Search and Recovery Diving and Crime Scene Investigation. Andrew also worked in the Christian film industry where he did set construction, grip and electric, and acting.

**Dane Diehl**



[From his website](#): Dane is a fifth generation family farmer. He and his wife, Erica, attend Pleasant Gap Christian Church. He is a graduate of University of Missouri and a Butler High School Alumnus. Dane is the District 4 Director of the Missouri Soybean Association. He supports the local 4-H and FFA and is passionate about empowering the farmers of tomorrow.

**Dennis Turner**



[From his website](#): I'm a lifelong resident of Missouri, and I'm proud of our Missouri values. The freedoms offered here have allowed me to gain a degree in Agronomy, raise cattle, raise a family, and start my own regional business...

April Quarter Fundraising Results

Candidate	On-Hand	April Receipts	April Expenditures	Debt
Andrew Hurt	\$415	\$600	\$185	
Dane Diehl	\$20,869	\$21,025	\$2,371	
Dennis Turner		<i>no committee formed</i>		

Consultants

Dane Diehl - Axiom

Web Presence

Andrew Hurt website: <https://www.andrewhurtformissouri.com/>

Andrew Hurt Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/andrewformissouri>

Andrew Hurt Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AndrewHurt4MO>

Dane Diehl website: <https://www.diehlformissouri.com/>

Dane Diehl Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DiehlForMissouri/>

Dennis Turner website: <https://www.republicansofmo.com/turnerformissouri>

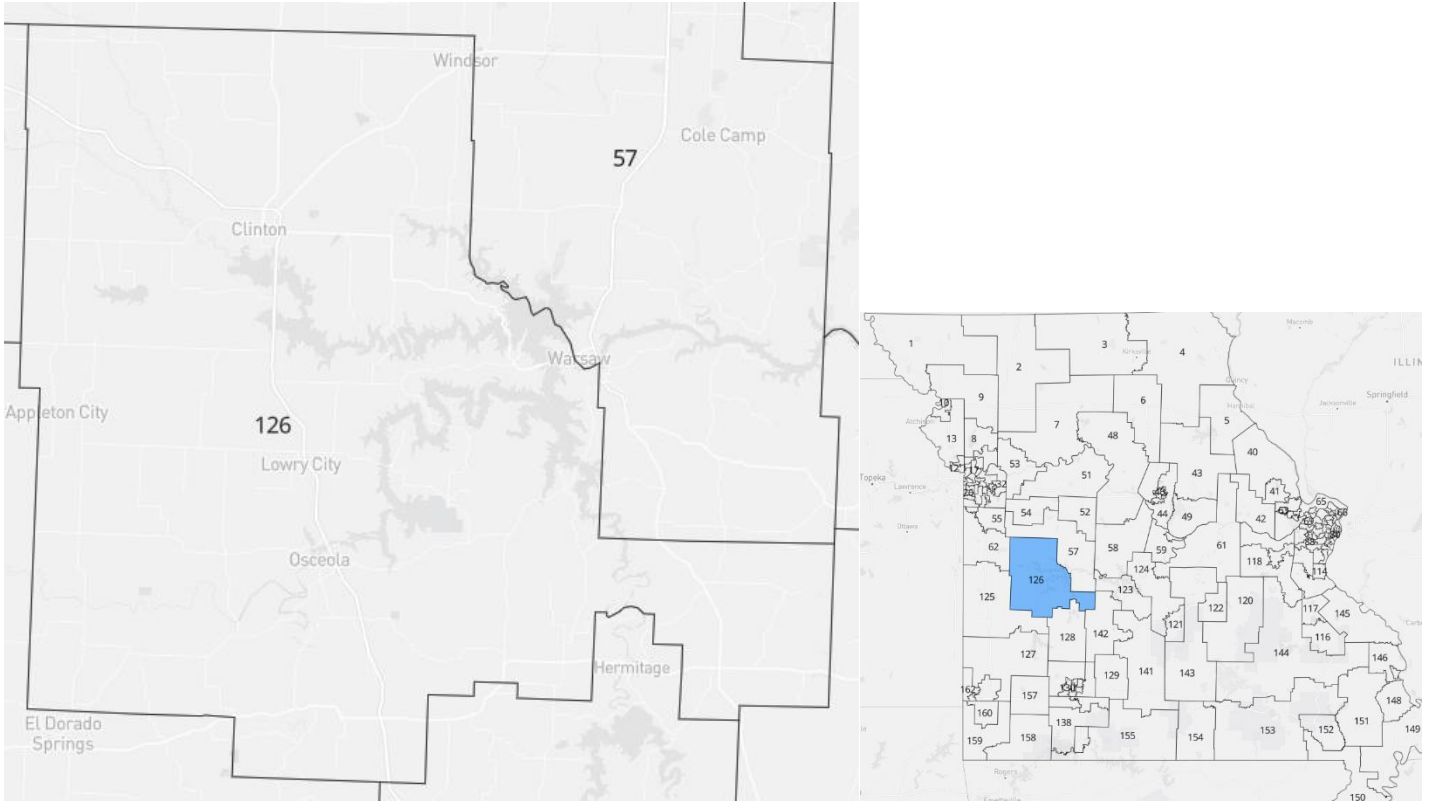
Dennis Turner Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/turnerformissouri>

**MOScout Early Line:** Diehl's huge money lead and Soybean connection make him the favorite here.

## District 126

Incumbent Jim Kalberloh challenged. One-on-one.

Partisan Lean: +48R



### **Jim Kalberloh**



[From his House biography](#): In addition to serving in the legislature, Kalberloh is a cattle farmer, and he owns and operates Landmark Restaurant in Lowry City. He also operates a value-added agriculture business – a corn maze. He obtained a diploma in farm management from Platte College. Born in Appleton City, Kalberloh now resides in Lowry City with his wife, Cristie. They have three children.

### **David Kelsay**



Could not find a biography online

April Quarter Fundraising Results

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>On-Hand</u>	<u>April Receipts</u>	<u>April Expenditures</u>	<u>Debt</u>
Jim Kalberloh	\$8,915	\$100	\$0	\$1,250
David Kelsay	\$1,677	\$4,150	\$2,472	\$1,000

Consultants

Jim Kalberloh - Axiom

Web Presence

Jim Kalberloh Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JimKalberlohforMO>

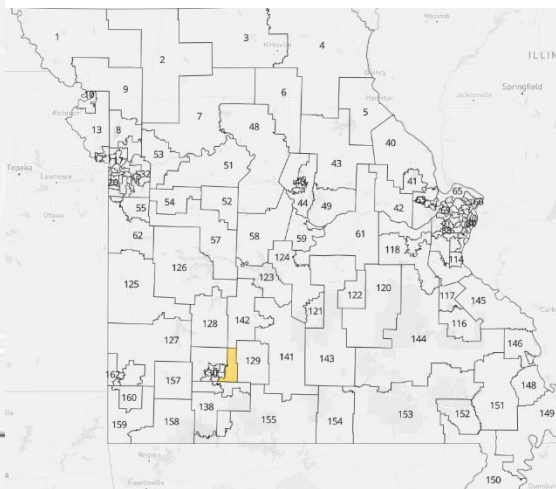
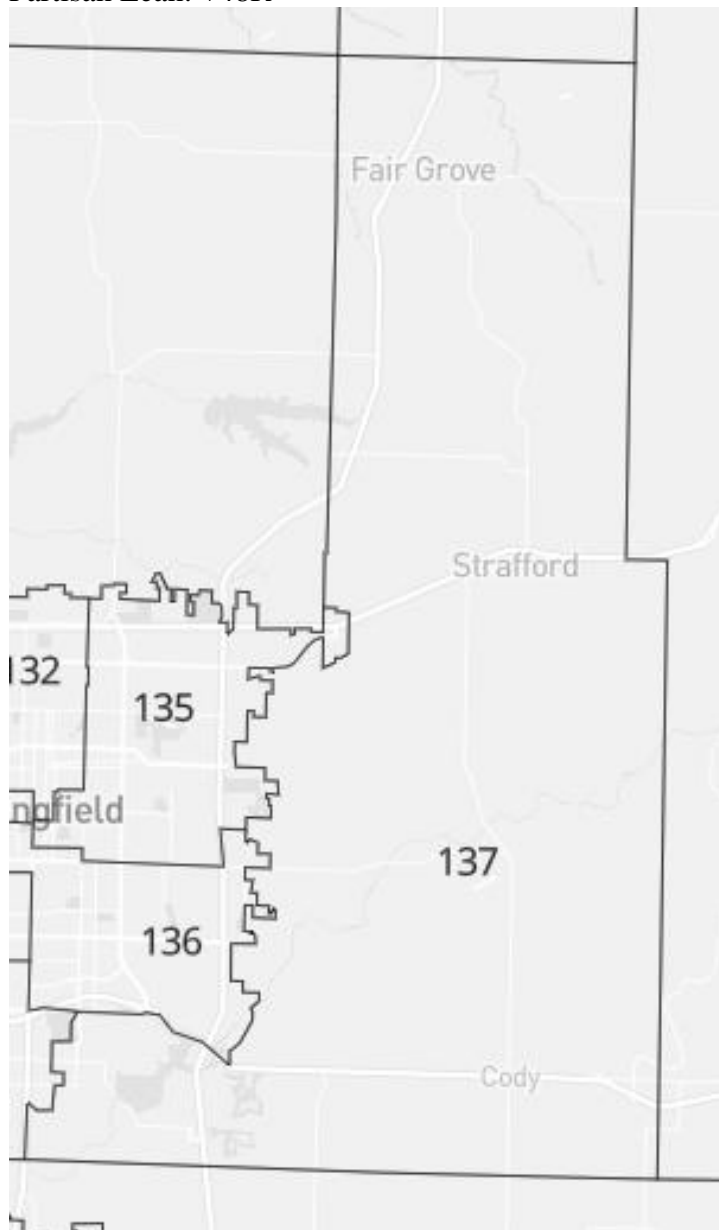
David Kelsay Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/people/David-Kelsay-for-State-Representative/100079615280027/>

**MOScout Early Line:** Kalberloh should win re-election.

## District 137

Open seat. One-on-one Republican primary.

Partisan Lean: +48R



**Thomas R. (Tom) Barr**



[From his website:](#) Tom Barr was re-elected Circuit Clerk of Greene County in November 2018 and began his second term of office on January 1, 2019. He graduated from Rockhurst University in Kansas City with a BA in Political Science. Prior to being elected to public office, Tom was an entrepreneur and small business owner for over thirty years. Tom currently serves as the President of the Missouri Circuit Clerk's Association. Tom and his wife Susy attend Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.



## Darin Chappell



From his website: Darin, a Springfield native, is a constitution and foundational documents advocate, and frequently a guest host of conservative radio shows. He is a proven fiscal conservative. Darin is a U.S. Navy and Army Reserves veteran. Darin is a proud husband, father and grandfather. He has a Master's Degree in Public Administration and is a former adjunct faculty member at Missouri State University.

### April Quarter Fundraising Results

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>On-Hand</u>	<u>April Receipts</u>	<u>April Expenditures</u>	<u>Debt</u>
Tom Barr	\$14,303	\$13,800	\$2,924	
Darin Chappell	\$51,563	\$7,225	\$4,111	\$39,365

### Consultants

Darin Chappell – Axiom, Victory

### Web Presence

Tom Barr website: <https://www.barrformissouri.com/>

Tom Barr Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/barrformissouri>

Darin Chappell website: <https://www.chappell4mo.com/>

Darin Chappell Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Chappell4MO>

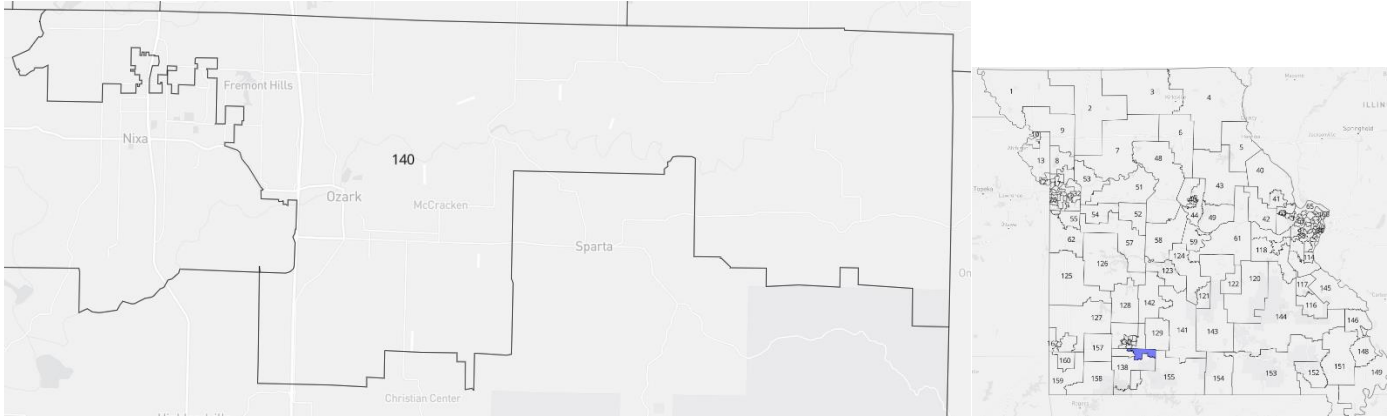
Darin Chappell Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DKChappell>

**MOScout Early Line:** Chappell has the consultants and the money in the bank, but Barr is a legit candidate, so this is a race to watch.

## District 140

Opens seat. One-on-one Republican primary.

Partisan Lean: +50R



### **Jamie Ray Gragg**



From his website: For 10 generations my family has resided here in Christian County. I am extremely blessed to have grown up here where the family values and traditions are strong. As a child and teen, I attended Victory Baptist Church where I grew in my faith, dedication, and reliance on God's strength. After graduating from Ozark High School in 1988, I attended Southwest Baptist University where I married and started a family. After graduating I worked as an executive for the Boy Scouts of America on the western slope of Colorado. After my time there was done, I was blessed to work in the ministry field on church staff as an education/youth minister and later, directing Christian camps in Texas and here in Missouri. **For most of the past 20 years, you may have seen me as one of many characters working at Silver Dollar City.**

### **Danny Garrison**

Could not find a biography or picture.

#### April Quarter Fundraising Results

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>On-Hand</u>	<u>April Receipts</u>	<u>April Expenditures</u>	<u>Debt</u>
Jamie Ray Gragg	\$672	\$672	\$0	
Danny Garrison	<i>no active committee</i>			

#### Web Presence

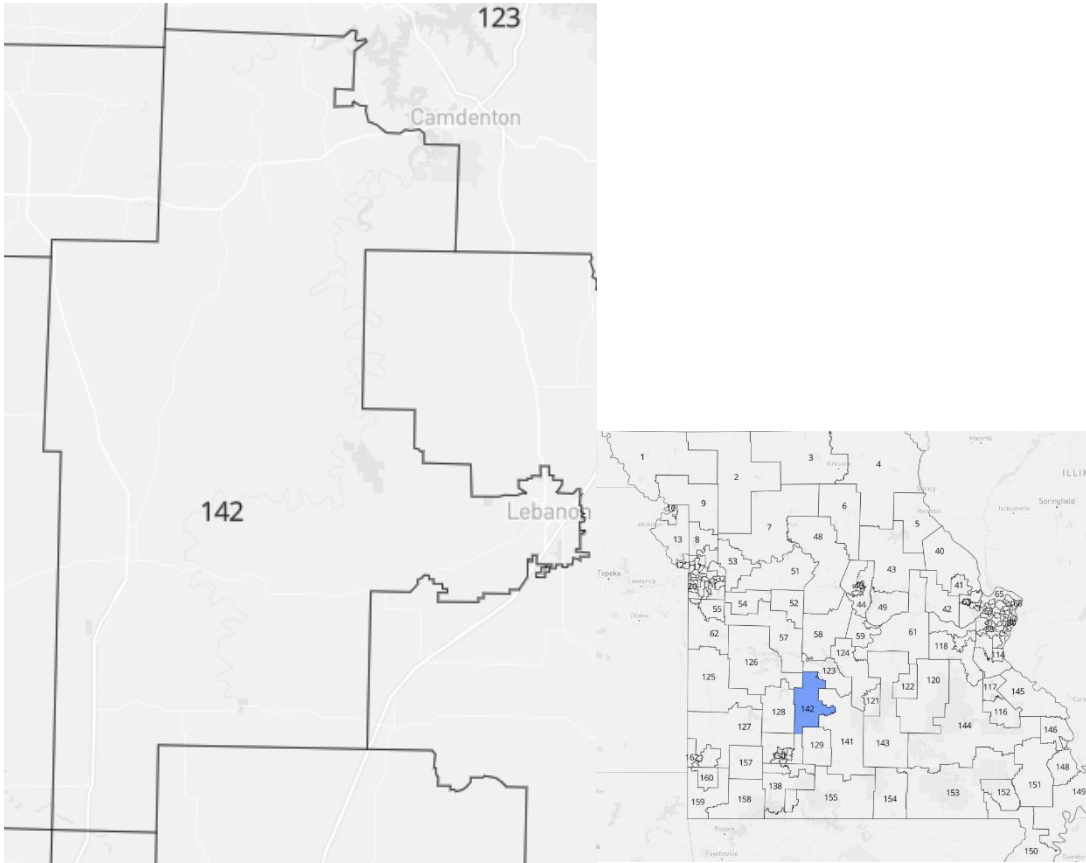
Jamie Ray Gragg website: <https://electjamieraygragg.wordpress.com/>

Jamie Ray Gragg Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076825970614>

**MOScout Early Line:** Gragg appears to be the clear winner here.

## District 142

Incumbent Jeff Knight challenged. One-on-one.  
Partisan Lean: +59R



**Jeff Knight**



[From his House biography](#): In addition to his legislative duties, Rep. Knight is an auctioneer and small business owner. Born in Lebanon, Missouri, in 1968, Rep. Knight graduated from Lebanon High School before attending the University of Missouri and Southwest Missouri State, from where he holds a Bachelor's Degree in Science Education. For 25 years, Knight taught and coached in schools in Ozark, Nixa, Lebanon and Camdenton. Rep. Knight resides in Lebanon, along with his wife, Amy. They have two children, Savanna and Jordan.

**Royce E Tuck**



From his website: Royce was raised on a small farm 8 miles north of Lebanon and spent all 12 years at Stoutland R-2 School graduating in 1976. He, his parents, his brother and his two sisters were deeply involved in school activities and in the local 4-H club. Afterward he worked for H.D. Lee at the LebCut plant. At 20 years old, Royce enlisted in the United States Air Force, completing basic training at Lackland AFB, TX with the rank of E-3. He attended technical school at Keesler AFB MS for Ground Radio Communications Repair (304x4), and due to his outstanding academic record, he was asked to stay as a Technical Instructor.

April Quarter Fundraising Results

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>On-Hand</u>	<u>April Receipts</u>	<u>April Expenditures</u>	<u>Debt</u>
Jeff Knight	\$33,113	\$2,950	\$5,206	
Royce E Tuck		<i>started after the deadline</i>		

Consultants

Jeff Knight - Axiom

Web Presence

Jeff Knight Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jeff.knight.526>

Royce E Tuck website: <https://roycetuck.com/>

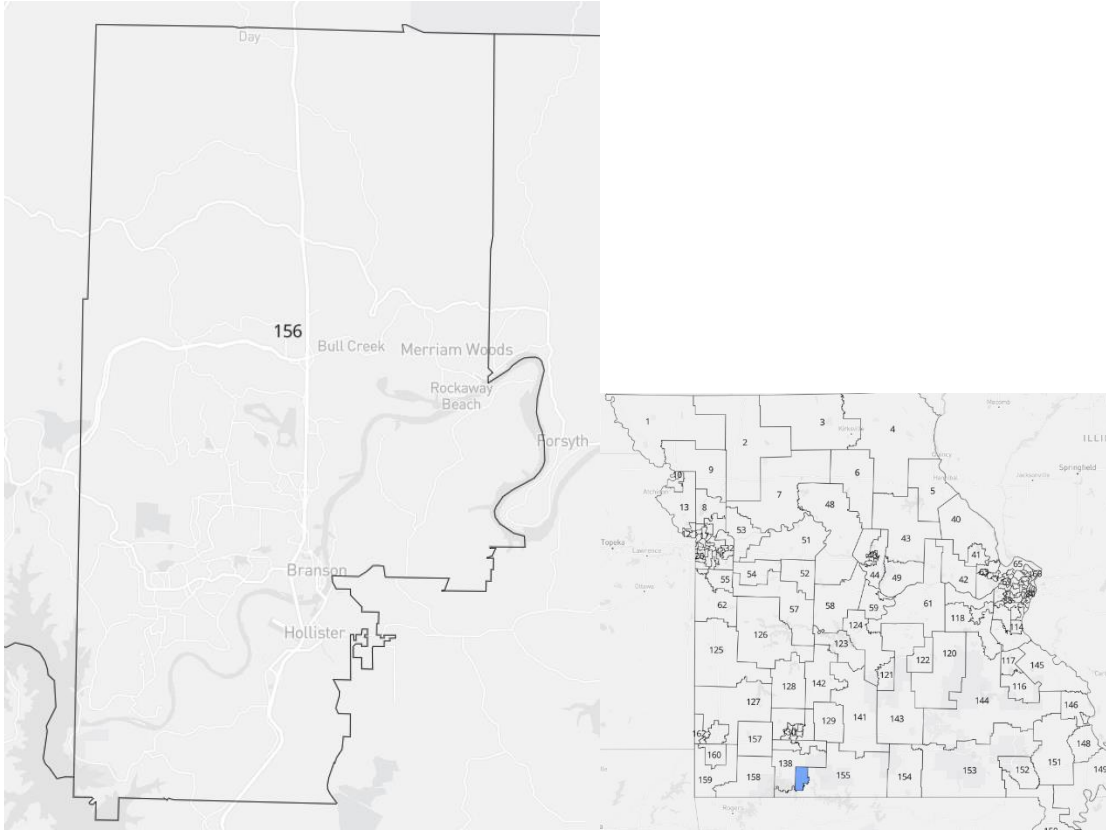
Royce E Tuck Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100080984542004>

**MOScout Early Line:** I would expect Knight to hold.

## **District 156**

Democratic primary. Republican incumbent Brian H. Seitz

Partisan Lean: +54R



### **Dale Speelman**



According to Face, he's a disabled veteran.

### **Ginger Kisse Witty**



[From Branson TriLake](#): Witty, a Forsyth graduate, earned a bachelor's degree in education at Missouri State, a Masters in school counseling from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and her doctorate in educational

leadership and policy from Vanderbilt. She returned to Branson eight years ago to work as a special education teacher before retiring in 2018.

April Quarter Fundraising Results

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>On-Hand</u>	<u>April Receipts</u>	<u>April Expenditures</u>	<u>Debt</u>
Dale A Speelman	<i>exemption</i>			
Ginger Kisse Witty	\$89	\$200	\$110	

Web Presence

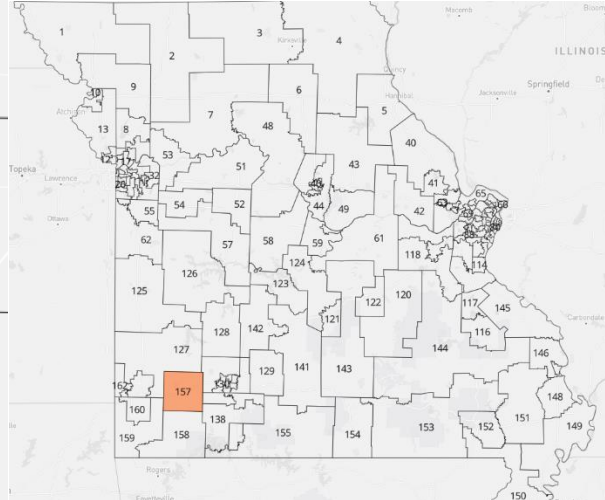
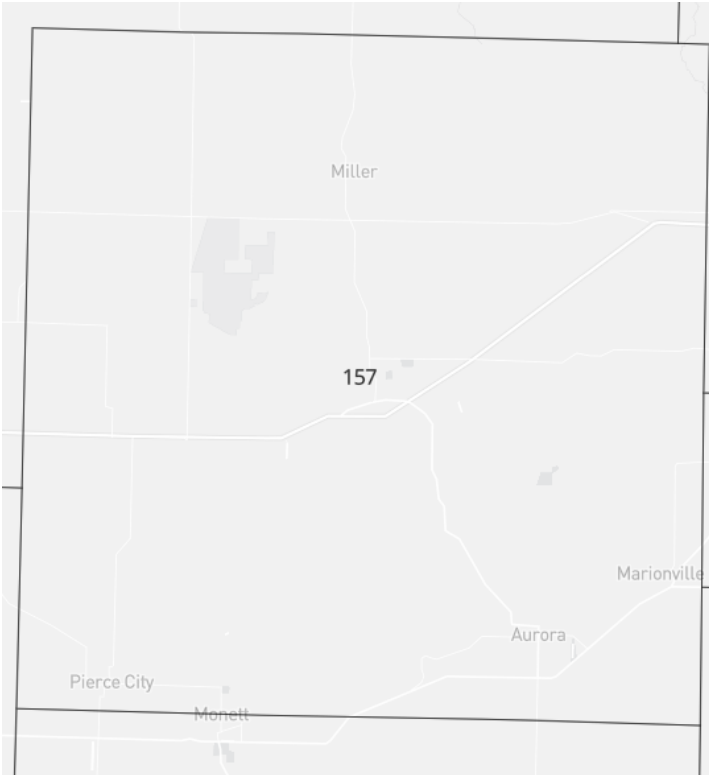
Dale A Speelman Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069387181787>

Ginger Kisse Witty Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ginger.witty>

**MOScout Early Line:** Dem primary in a 75-25 Republican district. Not sure it matters... actually I'm sure it doesn't matter.

## District 157

Incumbent Mitch Boggs challenged. One-on-one.  
Partisan Lean: +60R



### **Mitch Boggs**



[From his House biography](#): In addition to his legislative duties, Boggs is a farmer and small business owner. Born in Carthage, Boggs currently resides in La Russell with his wife, Lynn. They have eight children and eight grandchildren.

### **Wally Long**



[From his campaign website](#): Wally and his wife Sylvia have been married for almost 40 years. They have been blessed with 8 children and 7 grandchildren.

Living just outside of Mt. Vernon, Missouri, Wally serves as the pastor for Northside Baptist Church. A 10-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, he has recently retired from a successful career in the Federal Bureau of Prisons as a federal corrections officer. With several years of experience managing restaurants in the private sector, he understands the difficulties faced by small business owners.

Wally is also active in the community, serving as a legislative assistant in Jefferson City, substitute teaching in area schools, working with the homeschooling community and acting as a chaplain for area law enforcement agencies and organizations. He is a student at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

#### April Quarter Fundraising Results

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>On-Hand</u>	<u>April Receipts</u>	<u>April Expenditures</u>	<u>Debt</u>
Mitch Boggs	\$10,433	\$5,597	\$1,800	\$9,000
Wally Long	\$372	\$554	\$181	

#### Web Presence

Mitch Boggs on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/boggsjr2020/>

Wally Long on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wallylong1960>

Wally Long campaign website: <https://www.friendsofwallylong.com/>

#### Consultants

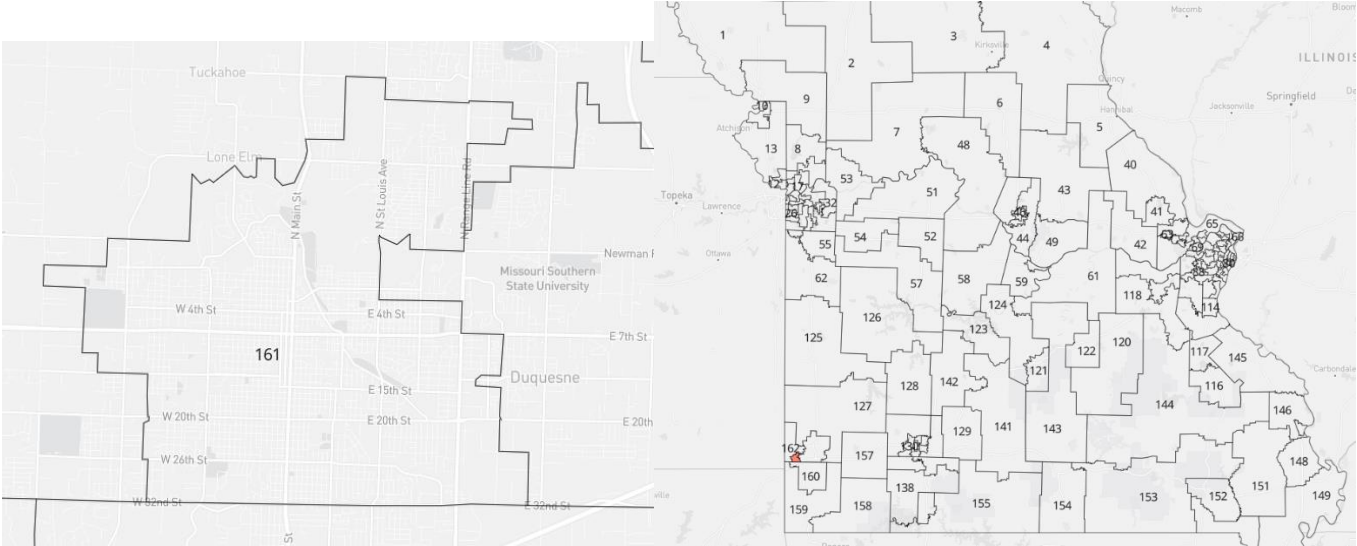
Mitch Boggs - Axiom

**MOScout Early Line:** This is a rematch. And while it's hard to beat an incumbent, Long came close in the 2020 primary. In that three-way race, Boggs won with 40% of the vote, and Long wasn't far behind with 36%.



## District 161

Incumbent Lane Roberts challenged. One-on-one.  
Partisan Lean: +25R



### Lane Roberts



[From his House biography](#): Prior to his legislative service, Roberts served as the director of the Missouri Department of Public Safety and as the chief of police for the City of Joplin. He has also served as chief of police in communities in the states of Washington and Oregon. Roberts is a veteran of the United States Air Force.

Roberts holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Liberty University and an MBA from William Woods University in Fulton. He also is a graduate of the FBI National Academy Session #178 and the Northwest Law Enforcement Executive Command College.

Born in Oceanside, California, Roberts currently resides in Joplin with his wife, Judy. They have three children.

### Thomas Ross



Unable to find a biography online

April Quarter Fundraising Results

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>On-Hand</u>	<u>April Receipts</u>	<u>April Expenditures</u>	<u>Debt</u>
Lane Roberts	\$29,102	\$350	\$150	
Thomas Ross		<i>limited activity</i>		

Web Presence

Lane Roberts website: <https://www.lanejroberts.com/>

Lane Roberts Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lanerobertsformissouri/>

Thomas Ross Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ThomasRossMO>

**MOScout Early Line:** Roberts is the favorite.