



## Friday roundup of Missouri politics

*Kinder says 'No' to state-based insurance exchange; Missouri man tries to save the Twinkies with a petition; and other items you may have missed this week.*

By Elizabeth Crisp – 11/16/12

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**Some states** are opening up to the idea of creating their own health insurance exchanges to prevent the federal government from stepping in, but Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder doesn't think Missouri should.

"Missouri should not go down this road," Kinder said Thursday on *the Dana Show* on 97.1.

Kinder, who frequently criticizes the federal health care law, said he thinks that leaving the exchanges up to the feds could spur the downfall of the Affordable Care Act.

"You watch over the next one-to-four years, the whole rock bed foundation of Obamacare is going to come crashing down," he said. "It is not sustainable; it is not workable; it is not affordable."

He cited an article from the conservative Cato Institute that has called for states to resist aiding the implementation of the federal health care law through taking on the exchanges or voluntarily expanding Medicaid.

"We will not set up an Obamacare health care exchange in Missouri," Kinder said. "We believe it to be a violation of the Health Care Freedom Act."

He also said he doesn't think the federal government will move to establish an exchange here.

"I'm ready to call that bluff because I don't think they can," he said.

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**Republican state Rep.** Jay Barnes of Jefferson City penned this op-ed on campaign cash for the Post-Dispatch this week.

The Missouri Ethics Commission last month dismissed two complaints over nonprofit organizations that some allege were created to conceal the identities of campaign donors.

“The Ethics Commission’s failure to act does not mean the Legislature should sit idle,” Barnes writes in his piece. “Regardless of one’s position on campaign finance limits, there should be universal agreement that large donations should be subject to the great disinfectant of public disclosure. Legislation fixing this problem should make it clear that nonprofits formed under shady circumstances must disclose their donors under Missouri law when they act as mere money-launderers for follow-up donations to politicians or political action committees. And the penalties for concealing large donations or running money-laundering operations should be increased to be felonies.”

Rep. Jason Kander, a Democrat from Kansas City who will become Missouri’s new secretary of state in January, has said his top priority will be ethics reform.

“I really believe that the true fraud in our elections is our campaign finance laws,” he told the Post-Dispatch after his election victory last week. “I’m going to push hard for the legislature to step up and make major changes in our campaign finance and ethics laws in this state.”

So look for maybe some bi-partisan support on that front when the Legislature returns to Jeff City.

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**With word spreading** that Hostess Brands Inc. will be shuttering its plants, one Missouri man is trying to find a solution to the impending Twinkie shortage. A man only identified as “Daniel B” of Kansas City has started a petition via the White House’s We the People program calling for the federal government to take over the industry to insure that people won’t miss out on their favorite sweet treats.

“We the undersigned, hereby request Barack Obama to immediately Nationalize the Twinkie industry and prevent our nation from losing her sweet creamy center,” the petition states.

The petition needs several thousand signatures before it will get a written response from the Obama administration.

The We the People program drew attention earlier this week because people are using it to call for state states to secede from the union.

**Quick Hits**

- Republican state senators are meeting in St. Louis this weekend to discuss priorities for the coming legislative session.
- House Speaker Tim Jones shared his post-election analysis with Missouri.net.
- The state Senate's Blue Ribbon Panel on Immigration has kicked off a series of three meetings across the state. (via the STL Beacon)
- Fresh off her successful re-election bid, Claire McCaskill had her "first power meeting" with her new fellow Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Deb Fischer of Nebraska. It happened in the senators-only women's bathroom. (via McCaskill tweet)