

# Firearms proposition narrowly defeated



DAVID PULLIAM/The Kansas City Star

Kansas City Mayor Emanuel Cleaver shared a soft-drink toast with new City Council member Troy Nash as early election results Tuesday night showed that Proposition B, which would have lifted a Missouri ban on concealed handguns, was trailing.

## St. Louis opposition decisive

By KIT WAGAR  
The Kansas City Star

Missouri voters turned out in record numbers Tuesday and rejected Proposition B, the nation's first statewide test of public support for concealed handguns.

A huge anti-gun vote in St. Louis County offset strong support in rural areas for the measure, which would have legalized concealed firearms in Missouri for the first time since 1875.

Groups supporting the measure conceded the battle late Tuesday, after having led briefly in early returns.

"How do you fight against the governor, the first lady, the Justice Department and the barrels of ink of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and *The Kansas City*

**Proposition B Missouri**  
Yes ..... 616,682  
No ..... 663,279  
98% of precincts reporting

*Star*?" said Fred Myers, campaign manager for Missourians Against Crime, which spearheaded the pro-gun campaign. "To say I'm disappointed is an understatement."

The measure lost by a ratio of 2-1 in St. Louis County. But the race was closer than expected in Jackson County, where the proposition lost by fewer than 4,000 votes.

Support was strong in southwest Missouri and overwhelming in the southeast part of the state, where advocates had counted on a strong endorsement of gun rights.

See GUNS, A-8