



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023	
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANDREW JOHNSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2023 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BEN TRAVLOS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-1400	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI FARM BUREAU		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 701 S. COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BEV EHLEN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-608-0168	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: WARREN COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE		TITLE: CHAIR	
ADDRESS: 19335 PRIMROSE RIDGE			
CITY: WARRENTON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63383
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES HARRIS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-761-7875	
REPRESENTING: OPPORTUNITY SOLUTIONS PROJECT		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 122 EAST HIGH STREET, SUITE 200			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KIM SHEMWELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kimberbee@yahoo.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 9:36 AM
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A simple majority can legally steal your bike. Let's make it harder to steal. If something is good, a simple majority if more counties should easily pass. This bill will give the rural areas on Missouri a better chance of their voices being heard.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RON CALZONE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2023 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SHANNA GRATZER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: swgratzer@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 4:06 PM
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Yes, double majority by the vote of the people.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: VELDA PROVANCE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: junebug11v@aol.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 11:59 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: WAYNE & JENNEL HOUTS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: wjhouts@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 9:05 PM

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YES! This bill will help prevent the urban and suburban areas of our state from making changes to our Constitution that affect the ENTIRE state. This empowers the rural areas of Missouri.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ADAM COLEMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arcoleman10@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 1:34 PM
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This bill attempts to steal power from the people and put it in the hands of greedy public officials and the corporations that own them.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ADAM GANTNER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: adamgantner215@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 7:53 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Why are elected officials trying to make it harder for the peoples voice to be heard? This process should be easier. We the people should have an easy avenue to collect signatures and have a real chance at push back when elected officials do the bidding of dark money donor interests and not the interests of the people of MO.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: AMY VENTURELLA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: amyventurella@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 10:34 PM
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I oppose this bill. Measures passed by a majority of votes - as is currently the case - reflect the will of the people. This makes it more difficult and undermines the will of the people. Lawmakers should reject efforts to make direct democracy more difficult, not introduce them. Thank you for your time.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2023 11:57 PM

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Defeat this terrible Bill. Stop taking away Our Rights to Control Our Government! See my taped Testimony!



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2023 11:58 PM
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I am adamantly Opposed to this Bill. It crushes the People of Missouri, This threshold is unattainable and unachievable. Defeat this awful and terrible Legislation! You continue to erode and destroy Missouri's Constitutional Protections, Checks and Balances over OUR Government! Shameful! We the People of Missouri retain ALL Control over Our State Government and Our State Constitution.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARTHUR NEWMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: JanusZeal11@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 10:33 PM
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Quit trying to subvert democracy. People vote, not land. This bill is not just, it is not equal. My vote should not be worth less or worth more than any other resident in this state simply because I chose or am forced to live in Saint Louis or Wooldridge.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ASHTON KUEHNEL		PHONE NUMBER: 618-946-9081	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SIERRA CLUB, MISSOURI CHAPTER		TITLE: ORGANIZER	
ADDRESS: 3438 PESTALOZZI ST			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63118
EMAIL: ashton.kuehnel@sierraclub.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 1:46 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

To the Missouri House Election and Elected Officials Committee: The Missouri Sierra Club opposes House Joint Resolution 19. The Missouri Sierra Club represents over 8,000 dues-paying members across the state who advocate for conservation, environmental, social justice, and democracy through grassroots efforts. We believe that every voter should have all the tools to exert their constitutional right to be involved in our democracy. Missouri's 115 year constitutional right to utilize the initiative petition to bring policy to the people of the state is a historic treasure and allows voters to participate in our democratic process. HJR 19 requires that any measure referred to the people shall take effect when approved by a majority of the votes cast statewide and also a majority of votes cast in each of more than half of the state senate districts. This is an attempt to make it harder for Missouri voters to pass legislation together, leads to minority rule, and is in direct opposition to our organization's values of an equitable and accessible democracy for all. According to research from the Missouri Scout, Missourians across the political spectrum want the initiative petition process to be made EASIER (40%) or LEFT ALONE (33%). The Missouri legislature should respect the voice and will of the people and reject HJR 19. The Sierra Club, Missouri Chapter has worked on numerous initiative petition campaigns over the past 50 years. This organization and our leadership understand how rigorous this process already is— you have to get hundreds of thousands of voters to sign on before a measure even gets considered for the ballot. Adding additional barriers does nothing more than censure the voice of the people. This is the people's tool to get things done. As Governor Ashcroft once said, "It is through the initiative process that those who have no influence with elective representatives may take their cause directly to the people. The General Assembly should be reluctant, therefore, to enact legislation which places any impediments on the initiative power which are inconsistent with the reservation found in the Constitution." The Missouri Sierra Club urges you to Vote NO on HJR 19.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BARBARA HOPPE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: yesforparks@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2023 10:15 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

This bill undermines the will of the majority of voters in the state people and transfers power to a minority of voters people in the state. It is totally contrary to the one person, one vote history of our state. It is minority rule and totally undemocratic!



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BARBARA ROSS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: bsr6250@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 11:27 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Missourians, all citizens, need to have a route to having an effective say in how the affairs of their state are conducted and what laws are passed when the Mo. legislature fails to acknowledge and protect the will of a majority of citizens on issues vital to them. This is the role of the initiative petition process. You would be making it harder for Missourians to have a democratic voice with this legislation - this is not the democratic way. The Mo. legislature should not be amenable to minority vote rule. Anything over 50% plus 1 is minority rule. You don't want this in the legislature, you should not force it on Missourians. With measures such as this legislation, Missouri slips further into authoritarianism. The people of Mo. want democracy not authoritarianism.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BETH NEWMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Bethemilynewman@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 9:08 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BRITTANY KIEFER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: brittany.kiefer@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 9:35 AM
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I oppose this bill and ask the committee to veto it because it takes power away from Missouri voters. This bill makes it more difficult for Missourians to engage in the democratic process and pass legislation on the issues that most most to tax paying voters. These restrictions will gut the power of Missouri voters which is necessary to uphold against legislators that do not consider the will of the people.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CAITLIN UNG		PHONE NUMBER: 314-644-8748	
REPRESENTING: ACLU MO		TITLE: POLICY AND CAMPAIGNS ASSOCIATE	
ADDRESS: 906 OLIVE ST, SUITE 1130			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63101
EMAIL: cung@aclu-mo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2023 8:33 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri submits this testimony in opposition to HJR 19, which proposes increasing the threshold for passing proposed constitutional amendments. Currently, proposed citizen amendments pass by a majority of votes cast. This resolution proposes requiring passage by at least 50% of votes cast, PLUS gaining a majority vote in at least 50% of state senate districts. This could dilute votes of more populous areas, and result in the rejection of measures that captured a majority of votes cast. The citizen initiative process provides a manner for direct participation. It promotes civic engagement and encourages citizens to discuss issues with one another. It promotes accountability between the government and the governed. But for this potential to be realized, it must be actual — by not erecting undue barriers to participation or creating a confusing passage threshold that fails to effectuate the will of Missouri's voters.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CAROL HUNT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: chunt19@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 11:30 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am writing to express my strong oppose HB 703, HB 780, HJR 19 seeking to restrict access to Citizen Initiative Petitions in Missouri. As a concerned citizen, I believe that this important tool is critical to ensuring that all voices are heard and that everyone has the ability to take action on the issues that matter most to them. The greatest negative effect would be to deny citizens their voice and allowing them to take action on issues they care about. This is especially important for groups who may not be adequately represented in the traditional political process, as Citizen Initiative Petitions can help ensure that all perspectives are heard. Citizen Initiative Petitions allow citizens to directly address issues they feel are not being adequately addressed by the government; this tool can help ensure that public officials are responsive to the needs and concerns of their constituents. Is it this that you miss to impede? The elected officials of this House should NOT believe themselves "parents" to their constituents. Contrary to current practices, they do not have the right to ignore their wishes and concerns of those constituents as they would recalcitrant children who do not know what is good for them. Such actions cripple a democracy and can only ferment an ever increasing resentment between elected officials and the people they supposedly represent.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CAROLINE OTTE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: r_cycl@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 6:06 PM
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You can't take away our rights so you can continue on with your corrupt business. Thanks but no thanks, Missourians can decide for themselves. You do not get to decide for us.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CATHY FARR		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: planetfarr@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 12:46 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHARLES DIXON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: dixonkc@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 6:29 PM	
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I oppose changing the percent of voters required to pass Referendum. Please leave the 50 percent threshold as is.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: CHERYL LYNN ADELSTEIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-442-3872
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL		TITLE: DEPUTY DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: 12 MILLSTONE CAMPUS DRIVE		
CITY: SAINT LOUIS	STATE: MO	ZIP: 63146
EMAIL: cadelstein@jcrctl.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 3:55 PM

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Opposition to HB 703, 780 and HJR 19The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), guided by Jewish values, advocates, educates, collaborates and mobilizes action on issues important to the Jewish community, 60,000 strong in St. Louis. We are committed to pursuing religious tolerance, civic discourse and social justice in St. Louis and beyond. The Sage Hillel taught "Al tifros min hatzibur," Do not separate yourself from the community (Pirke Avot 2:5). Moreover, it is our responsibility to play an active role in our community and in choosing its leaders. Rabbi Yitzhak taught that "A ruler is not to be appointed unless the community is first consulted" (Babylonian Talmud Berachot 55a). Rabbi Yitzhak further explained that in the Torah, Bezalel could be chosen to build the Tabernacle only with the community's approval. This deeply embedded ethic of political participation has guided Jews to enthusiastically participate in the American electoral process. These bills and resolutions make it difficult for our people and all people in our state to participate in the electoral process. Our state constitution gives us the right to initiate legislative action through the petition process. This already onerous and costly process, has helped our community achieve some of its policy objectives, including making health care available to more of our citizens. By making it more difficult to recruit petitioners, to certify a petition by increasing the number of signatures required, and by increasing the threshold for approval of the initiative from a simple majority of voters, it will make the ballot initiative process too expensive and burdensome for many grassroots efforts - effectively removing power from the people. As people of faith, we oppose any efforts that challenge our ability to participate in the electoral process and ask you to oppose the bills.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023	
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CLARISSE TEEPE-FRYREAR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: twothewoods@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 9:48 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Oppose this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CLINT CRABTREE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ctcrabtree@icloud.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 1:42 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

The initiative petition process is an important tool of direct democracy that allows us to maintain our freedom to have a say on important issues. The Missouri legislatures' interest in making the initiative petition process more difficult is a power grab that evades the will of the people. For their personal gain, these elected officials and wealthy special interests seek to make it harder for citizens to place important issues on the ballot, more difficult to pass initiatives, and easier to overturn the public's vote. A majority is 50% plus 1. Since when does "majority rule" mean 60%? Changing the threshold just makes it harder for the public to make decisions. The process is already rigorous - you have to get hundreds of thousands of voters to sign on before a measure even gets considered for the ballot. Adding additional barriers does nothing more than censure the voice of the people. Voters from all sides of the political spectrum have used the ballot initiative process to advance their priorities. The ballot initiative process is the only recourse voters have when politicians fail to address the issues that matter to them. This tool has been used by conservatives, progressives, moderates, and independents.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: COLLEEN TEPEN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: colleentepen81@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2023 11:40 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

The public petition process is one of the last ways that our voices can be heard in Missouri (which is why it is being targeted by MO republicans). Please don't take our voices away by passing this anti democratic bill. Please vote no on HJR 19.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CONSTANCE DOTY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: constancedoty@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 8:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose this resolution.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA M. ERB		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: cynerb@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 5:36 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I do not support any changes to the current Missouri initiative petition process. This is a cornerstone of our democracy, which is available to all voters, and can benefit all state residents. A simple majority is sufficient for this process and represents the will of voters in the state. There is no need to alter the way a majority is determined in this process.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA MCEVOY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ccarms311@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2023 4:12 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I find it reprehensible that there is an interest in making it harder for citizens to achieve their goals when their legislators are not following their wishes. A majority is 50 plus 1....not an arbitrary number concocted by backroom politicians and wealthy self-interested groups with MINORITY interests! DO NOT vote to handicap the will of the people!!!, personally and proudly, have worked to gather signatures - a time-consuming, costly, and rigorously observed process, and found that it helps people voice their opinions and helps them understand their own government. This bill "steps on the neck" of our citizens. Vote NO!!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DANA SANDWEISS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: danasandweiss@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 9:12 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I have gathered signatures across the state and worked on several initiative petition campaigns in Missouri and it is already very difficult, time consuming and expensive. By creating all these additional barriers to this process you are attacking Missourian's right to participate in direct democracy and discouraging them from engaging in our political process. Please spend your time and our tax dollars working to help Missourians, not discouraging them to participate in our political process.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023	
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DARCY KLONSKY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: dgklonsky@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2023 6:05 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DARLENE LOEB		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: darlene.loeb@accessus.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 5:15 PM
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I, Darlene Loeb, would like to voice my opposition to HB 781 repealing this right of voluntarily declaring affiliation with a party through our voter record.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DAVID JAMES MITCHELL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: atrial1047@att.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 4:52 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

To Elections and Elected Officials Committee, In regards to HJR 19, I hope that Rep. Black aims at fairness of representation through the resolution on initiative petitions requiring passage in a majority of state senate districts, rather than as a power play for vested interests who have been dissatisfied with the results of prior statewide petitions. If his concern involves the former assumption of seeking the fairness of passage of a statewide initiative petition, then his resolution misses the mark. A statewide initiative petition seeks an answer by all of the voters in the state on a particular issue. The resolution proposed by Rep. Black, if adopted, could have the result of being a very anti-democratic measure. It could be possible to have a high majority of voters supporting an initiative petition statewide, but lacking passage in a majority of senate districts. Denying a petition under this kind of structure would be profoundly anti-democratic, defeating the whole purpose and intent of initiative petitions to begin with. We don't elect presidential candidates this way in any state. Candidates are chosen by who wins the most votes of all those cast, regardless of from what part of the state they are cast from. It would be profoundly ridiculous to pass a law, requiring a presidential candidate to not only win the majority of the vote in a state, but also win the majority of the state senate districts, or the majority of the Congressional districts. If this resolution has been submitted on the behalf of special interests who have been dissatisfied with prior statewide petitions, such as the passage of expansion of Medicaid and an increase in the minimum wage, then this resolution is obviously profoundly antidemocratic. Just as obviously, this resolution should not be supported. Respectfully Submitted, Dave Mitchell Kansas City, Mo.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DEBRA P. COE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: debbiecoe@mac.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 12:34 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I just can't help thinking this legislature is power hungry. Why make it harder for citizens to make decisions regarding their vote? Why do politicians want to censure the vote of the people? I oppose this bill!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023	
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DENISE LIEBERMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-780-1833	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION		TITLE: DIRECTOR & GENERAL COUNSEL	
ADDRESS: 6047 WATERMAN BLVD			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63112
EMAIL: denise@movpc.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 11:45 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The Missouri Voter Protection Coalition (MOVPC) submits this testimony in opposition to HJR 19, which proposes increasing the threshold for passing proposed constitutional amendments. Currently, proposed citizen amendments pass by a majority of votes cast. This resolution proposes requiring passage by at least 50% of votes cast, PLUS gaining a majority vote in at least 50% of state senate districts. This could dilute votes of more populous areas, and result in rejection of measures that captured a majority of votes cast. In other words, measures that obtain support of a majority of Missouri's voters might not pass. The Missouri Voter Protection Coalition is Missouri's statewide nonpartisan network of voter advocates who work to advance the right to vote in Missouri through policy advocacy, strategic litigation, voter education and coordination of the statewide nonpartisan Election Protection program. Through the collective experience of our 50+ partner organizations and nationally recognized expertise of our leaders and partners, over the last 15 years, we have provided this Committee with analysis and assessment of how legislation before the committee stands to impact access to the ballot for Missouri's voters. This resolution is the latest among at least a dozen that seek to impose higher thresholds for citizen initiative petitions to pass. Measures passed by a majority of votes - as is currently the case - reflect the will of the people. Making it more difficult undermines the will of the people. The initiative petition process is amongst the purest forms of democratic participation. About half the states have an initiative petition process. For more than a century, access to the citizen initiative process has allowed for a voter engagement on a range of issues by Missouri voters across the political spectrum - conservative, progressive and everything in between. The citizen initiative process provides a manner for direct participation. It promotes civic engagement and encourages citizens to discuss issues with one another. It promotes accountability between the government and the governed. But for this potential to be realized, it must be actual — by not erecting undue barriers to participation or creating a confusing passage threshold that fails to effectuate the will of Missouri's voters. Accordingly we urge you to vote NO on HJR 19. Sincerely, Denise Lieberman, Director & General Counsel MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION 6047 Waterman Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63112 (314) 780-1833; denise@movpc.org www.movpc.org



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023	
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DENISE LIEBERMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-780-1833	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION		TITLE: DIRECTOR & GENERAL COUNSEL	
ADDRESS: 6047 WATERMAN BLVD			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63112
EMAIL: denise@movpc.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2023 9:31 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The Missouri Voter Protection Coalition (MOVPC) submits this testimony in opposition to HJR 19, which proposes increasing the threshold for passing proposed constitutional amendments. Currently, proposed citizen amendments pass by a majority of votes cast. This resolution proposes requiring passage by at least 50% of votes cast, PLUS gaining a majority vote in at least 50% of state senate districts. This could dilute votes of more populous areas, and result in rejection of measures that captured a majority of votes cast. In other words, measures that obtain support of a majority of Missouri's voters might not pass. The Missouri Voter Protection Coalition is Missouri's statewide nonpartisan network of voter advocates who work to advance the right to vote in Missouri through policy advocacy, strategic litigation, voter education and coordination of the statewide nonpartisan Election Protection program. Through the collective experience of our 50+ partner organizations and nationally recognized expertise of our leaders and partners, over the last 15 years, we have provided this Committee with analysis and assessment of how legislation before the committee stands to impact access to the ballot for Missouri's voters. This resolution is the latest among at least a dozen that seek to impose higher thresholds for citizen initiative petitions to pass. Measures passed by a majority of votes - as is currently the case - reflect the will of the people. Making it more difficult undermines the will of the people. The initiative petition process is amongst the purest forms of democratic participation. About half the states have an initiative petition process. For more than a century, access to the citizen initiative process has allowed for a voter engagement on a range of issues by Missouri voters across the political spectrum - conservative, progressive and everything in between. The citizen initiative process provides a manner for direct participation. It promotes civic engagement and encourages citizens to discuss issues with one another. It promotes accountability between the government and the governed. But for this potential to be realized, it must be actual — by not erecting undue barriers to participation or creating a confusing passage threshold that fails to effectuate the will of Missouri's voters. Accordingly we urge you to vote NO on HJR 19. Sincerely, Denise Lieberman, Director & General Counsel MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION 6047 Waterman Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63112 (314) 780-1833; denise@movpc.org www.movpc.org



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DIANE G YEAMANS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: dyeamans98@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2023 5:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Please do not make any changes to the petition initiative as it now stands. HJR 19 only serves to reinforce the effects of gerrymandered districts so that the vote of the people is distorted. A simple majority of the voters has since served the state well since the 1920s.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DIANE G YEAMANS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: dyeamans98@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2023 12:52 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Please do not change the citizens initiative process. We citizens need to be able to make our voices heard as circumstances change. We need to be able to direct our state to address our concerns and needs.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DON CROZIER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: doncrozier@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 8:57 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose efforts to weaken the Initiative Petition process and resent efforts to weaken my voice as a voter. Measures that pass by a majority of votes reflect the will of the people. Please don't change this



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH A FRANKLIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: eafrank711@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2023 6:46 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

My name is Elizabeth Franklin, Plattsburg MO and I am submitting the following regarding House Joint Resolution No. 19. I do not support this House Joint Resolution and am respectively submitting testimony in opposition. This is not partisan ~ I implore you to reach to a higher level and consider the citizens of this state as you contemplate this legislation. The requirement to have an amendment pass in majority of Senate districts is disingenuous. It's not clear what "concern" this requirement fixes and simply appears to make passage of any constitutional amendment more difficult. Measures currently must pass by a statewide majority without regard to geographic districts which fairly reflect the will of the people. Adding a 2nd "majority" layer of approval based on "zip codes" is a clear signal that statewide majority simply isn't good enough ~ interested to know when the definition of majority changed. Mr. Carl Bearden, Republican who formerly represented District 16 in the MO House including leadership positions as Speaker Pro Tem and Chairman of House Budget Committee wrote an opinion piece printed in the Kansas City Star on 20 February 2022, which captures the "desperate power grab" by politicians in our state. A couple points from his excellent and relevant opinion piece are provided below and full article may be found on KC Star website. • "Attacks on the ballot initiative petition process in Missouri are not new — and usually arise after an issue passes that the party in power does not like. It happened in the late 1980s and early 1990s under Democratic majorities, and is happening once again under Republican majorities. Neither party was, or is, correct." • "The freedom to have a say on important issues is a fundamental right — and Missouri's 115-year-old ballot measure process allows voters to circumvent partisan divides and directly get things done for the people." • "Efforts to modernize the initiative petition process are perfectly acceptable, including digitizing the paperwork and avoiding superfluous submissions through a minimal refundable filing fee." We all know that Gov. Ashcroft vetoed changes to the petition process stating "It is through the initiative process that those who have no influence with elective representatives may take their cause directly to the people. The General assembly should be reluctant, therefore, to enact legislation which places any impediments on the initiative power which are inconsistent with the reservation found in the Constitution." Wise words. I urge you to reject this legislation. Thank you for your time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELLE HOLLRAH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: krhollrah@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 7:39 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This bill attacks the initiative petition process and limits the power of Missouri voters. The initiative petition process is an important tool of democracy that allows us to maintain our freedom to have a say on important issues. This bill constitutes a power grab to evade the will of the people. Just in case it's been awhile since you've been in math class, I would like to remind you that a majority is simply 50% plus one. Politicians don't get to rewrite math rules just because you don't like that the public is able to advance legislation you don't like. The IP is already checked and balanced in that it is necessary to get hundreds of thousands of voters to sign on to a petition before a measure even gets considered for the ballot. Adding additional barriers does nothing more than silence the voice of the people.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELLEN WENTZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: gotakeahike2@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2023 10:31 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I oppose HJR 19. Most Missourians want Missouri to be a better place for its citizens to live and prosper and the initiative petition is the best avenue to accomplish this in our state. As someone who has collected over 700 signatures on at least one initiative petition, I can say first hand that the process is already too difficult. My question is why HJR 19 beats around the bush and puts forth misleading language against the initiative petition process? If you don't want us to make Missouri a better place for its citizens to live and prosper, then treat our citizens like adults and simply replace this bill with one that doesn't allow the initiative petition process.



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: EMILY HORNSTRA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: emlife@att.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2023 7:19 PM
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I am opposed to this bill



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: EMILY KUTTENKULER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ekuttes@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 4:07 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I feel that measures passed by a majority of votes - as is currently the case - reflect the will of the people. Making it more difficult undermines the will of the people. I also feel strongly that lawmakers should reject efforts to make direct democracy more difficult.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: EVE SAMUEL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: evalani123@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 9:39 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Stop silencing the voice of the people. Stop this draconian effort to take away the one recourse Missouri citizens have to be heard above the deafening noise of your gerrymandered supermajority. We the people by definition will not always agree. We the people are who you are elected to serve.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: EVELYN MADDOX		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: emaddox64111@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 9:55 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I object to HJR 19 because it burdens voters with increased requirements for successfully pursuing an initiative petition. Missouri's initiative petition rights are an important component of our democratic governance in Missouri.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: EVELYN MADDOX		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: emaddox64111@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 2:04 PM

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I oppose HJR 19 because it would make it nearly impossible for any citizen initiative to pass because requiring a majority of votes in more than half of the state senate districts in too high a threshold.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: FRANK S. SACCONI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: saccones@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 9:42 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am a Missouri constituent and I strongly oppose HJR 19 and the changes it aims to make to our Missouri initiative petition process. HJR 19 is unfair in requiring more than a simple majority of votes cast to pass an initiative on the ballot. in HJR 19 will unjustly limit the ability of Missouri voters to have their voices heard on issues and policies that matter to them.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: GETTA R. HALL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: getta_hall@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2023 6:52 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Good Day, A fully-paid Golden Life member of both the NAACP and THE Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a public service sisterhood founded on Christian principles, I have visited the Missouri Capitol several times over the years. I traveled from Kansas City as part of our Social Action Committee's annual Delta Days at the Missouri State Capital. More recently, I was an advocate of Medicaid Expansion. Established in 1913 at Howard University in Washington, DC, Delta's first social action was marching down Pennsylvania Avenue for women's suffrage. Communities Creating Opportunities and other community and faith-based organizations sponsored several bus trips to the Missouri State Capital in Jefferson City in support of Medicaid Expansion for citizens caught in the Affordable Health Care gap. I was impressed with the historic art and accessibility to the legislative process. The hallowed halls contained pictures of public servants I respect such as Senator Yvonne Wilson and Representatives Mary Groves Bland, Bill Gray, Jackie McGee and others. Most legislators live up to their title, The Honorable. Years before, I wrote to The Honorable John Ashcroft, Missouri's 50th Governor (1984-1993) who went on to serve as US Senator (1995-2001) and 79th US Attorney General, aka Justice Dept CEO (2001-2005). I urged him to sign the bill on his desk passed by a progressive Missouri House and Senate to divest Missouri funds in an international response to apartheid in South Africa and then enforce the law he signed when the MOSERS (MO State Employees Retirement System) Board refused to comply 5 years later. I was surprised, both times, he did the honorable thing after I appealed to him citing Old Testament references in the name of Jesus. I supposed as a Republican, he would not sign the Democratic led divestment bill into law. Little did I know, he was the son of a Pentecostal preacher and was not Jewish as I assumed. I try to leave judging people to the Lord God Almighty now. Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Archbishop Desmond Tutu visited UMKC and praised Missouri's forward thinking in this important fight for human rights. Divestment did not cost the state any money as was predicted. In fact, funds increased. Nelson Mandela, another Nobel Peace Prize Winner, was subsequently released from prison after 27 years and went on to vote for the first time in a presidential election he won. GLORY TO GOD. I still do not understand how Medicaid Expansion could not pass the Missouri legislature. How could a reasonable group of state legislators refuse billion\$ and billion\$ of federal funding to comply with the spirit of federal law? This was in deference to public health! Many benefited from Affordable Health Care (aka, Obama Care) especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Missouri has profitted from the influx of federal funding as one of the 39 Medicaid Expansion states. Despite many challenges, "it is notable that almost 300,000 people have applied for the Medicaid expansion in one year and evidence suggests that many if not most of these individuals were uninsured before receiving the expansion coverage and may never have had insurance before." – Washington University – St. Louis Institute for Public Health. (November 29, 2022) THE PETITION INITIATIVE PROCESS MUST BE MAINTAINED AS IS. It is an important check to the partisan politics I saw evident in Medicaid Expansion which required Supreme Court intervention to be enacted. The

failure of a partisan Missouri legislature to act in the best interests of our citizenry was countered by this process to get the issue on the ballot and passed with the current percentage of signatures in the current number of Congressional Districts with the current simple majority. HJR-18, -24, -25, -30 and -43 and HB-703 and -780 are not in the best interests of our democratic process. The process which already exists requires a high thresh hold of signatures and has served us well. A two-thirds majority on any ballot decision or election is unrealistic. How many legislators could garner 2/3 of the vote from their constituencies to hold office? Amazed by His Grace, Sis. Getta R. Hall (pronounced " G " as in Glory - "Ta" - "Hall" as in Hallelujah(816)-483-9759 - getta_hall@yahoo.com ACA Medicaid expansion in Missouri [Updated 2022 Guide]



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: GINA S MEYER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jemeyer1955@comcast.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 7:51 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

HRJ 19 is manipulative and unfair. Why should initiative petitions have to meet different standards to pass than anything else on our ballots? It is discriminatory and takes away the right of the people of Missouri to govern themselves.



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: HOLLY BERNSTEIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: holly.e.bernstein@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 8:00 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

The current process requires that measures be passed by a majority of votes. This reflects the will of the people. Making it more difficult than a simple majority undermines the will of the people. Lawmakers should reject efforts to make direct democracy more difficult.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: HOLLY BERNSTEIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: holly.e.bernstein@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2023 2:38 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HJR 19. Under current law, proposed citizen amendments pass by a majority of votes cast. This resolution proposes requiring passage by at least 50% of votes cast, PLUS gaining a majority vote in at least 50% of state senate districts. This could dilute votes of more populous areas, and result in rejection of measures that captured a majority of votes cast. In other words, measures that obtain support of a majority of Missouri's voters might not pass. The current law, requiring a simple majority, better reflects the will of the people, and as such, should be maintained. Vote no on HJR 19.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JACKIE BAILIFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jackiebailiff@outlook.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 4:10 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JACQUELINE FARR		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: farrduo@outlook.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 12:20 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Despite the partisan neutrality of ballot initiatives, this process is being attacked by legislators simply because the decisions made by a majority of the voters aren't liked. What's important is the freedom of the people to vote on the issues placed before them; that's why it is deeply troubling to watch the volume of attacks on this constitutional freedom for Missourians. These restrictive measures in the proposals take a variety of forms, but they all have the same function: to undermine the will of the people and diminish their decision-making power. Our will, our power and our freedom are at stake. It is more important than ever to protect our freedom to shape the laws that govern us, especially through ballot initiatives.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JACQUELYN FIBER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: rafiaron@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 4:58 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Changing the threshold just makes it harder for the public to make decisions. The process is already rigorous - you have to get hundreds of thousands of voters to sign on before a measure even gets considered for the ballot. Adding additional barriers does nothing more than censure the voice of the people. The initiative petition process is strict enough as it is now. Increasing the threshold for passing a measure would make it too difficult for citizens to pass an initiative. I am opposed to every part of this.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JAMES VOKAC		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jvvokac@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 9:46 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This bill is anti-democratic. Having initiatives and referendums engaging the electorate in our democracy. Having circulated petitions i know one needs to be dedicated to be willing to collect legitimate signatures. There is money coming from out of state to influence our voters, but most of that is spent to elect officials to support the interests of the contributor. If out of state money is a concern then pass a law to restrict donations to candidates and initiatives and referendums. When elected officials do not do follow our state's motto ("Let the good of the people be the supreme law.") the people need a reasonable wait to make corrections.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JEANETTE MOTT OXFORD		PHONE NUMBER: 314-289-4303	
REPRESENTING: PARAQUAD, INC.		TITLE: PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 5240 OAKLAND AVENUE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63110
EMAIL: joxford@paraquad.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 10:54 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

HJR 19 would impose a new standard for passage of both constitutional and statutory amendments. The new threshold is that passage of an initiative petition ballot measure would require not only a majority of votes cast, but also a majority of votes in each Senate district. Currently, measures require only a majority of total votes cast. Our objections to HJR 19 are twofold: 1) Our re-districting process is not carried out in a non-partisan way. Political parties jockey for advantage after the ten-year Census forces us to re-draw the boundaries of our voting districts. The geography of the final Senate district lines (and other district lines) often represents political “horse-trading” as opposed to an attempt to equalize the voices of all Missourians. 2) A simple majority does translate to one person=one vote no matter where you live in Missouri. Adding an extra criterion of securing passage in a majority of the votes in a majority of State Senate Districts in order to pass a measure adds a layer of complexity, making it more difficult to secure passage. Having grown up in a rural area, I hear the concerns of friends in rural areas who say they feel ignored by the current process, but I ask them to consider this. Missourians from all eight Congressional districts do tend to collect signatures in every petition initiative signature drive because there are local residents who support the measure that is being put forward. It is paid signature gathering that focuses on areas with concentrated populations because of the high expenses already associated with meeting our high standards to get a measure on the ballot. Those who wish to participate in gathering signatures can volunteer to do so with the organizations leading each campaign. Those who wish to oppose a ballot measure once it secures a place on the ballot can organize informational forums and reach out to their friends and neighbors, no matter where they live. A healthy democracy depends on informed and active citizens. Those who say they did not know that a measure - like legalization of recreational marijuana - was going to be on the ballot simply abdicated their responsibility to study the ballot in advance to prepare to vote. There are many organizations, such as the Missouri League of Women Voters, that will gladly educate about what is on the ballot – in a non-partisan way – when their help is requested. Paraquad certainly provides voter education to our staff and to our participants so that we are ready to vote in each election. Let us step up to both our rights as voters and our RESPONSIBILITIES as voters. The initiative petition process is one of the only avenues open to people with disabilities when we bring concerns to the General Assembly repeatedly but see no action to solve the challenges we are experiencing. For years we have been sounding the alarm about the lack of affordable, healthy, and accessible housing and public transportation and how this is damaging our health, employability, and ability to participate in day-to-day activities in our communities. It would be an uphill climb to meet the criteria to put issues of housing or transportation on a ballot and to secure a simple majority of votes from our Missouri neighbors without adding a new standard to meet for successful passage. We ask

that you not make our participation in direct democracy even harder. Please vote no on HJR 19. About Paraquad: Paraquad is one of the oldest and largest independent living centers in the country. Centers for Independent Living are unique because more than 50% of our board and staff are people with disabilities. To carry out our mission, it is essential that the voices of personally impacted people be heard, and it is also essential that people with disabilities be heard and valued in local, state, and federal government proceedings.



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JEFF BRIGGS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Jeffbriggs63@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 4:14 PM
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Let the people vote, and please don't make it harder!!



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JEFF HOLZEM		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jeff2002h@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 5:55 PM

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My wife and our friends volunteered for a year and a half to gather signatures for a ballot initiative petition to make our legislative district elections competitive. The legislature quickly passed a law to get a ballot measure to undo it. When our elected officials do not follow the will of the people such as with medicaid expansion. our only recourse is with an initiative petition. Officials complain that there are too many amendments. Four of the last five on the ballot were from the legislature. If you want to make it harder start there.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: JEN BERNSTEIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-277-9080
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN ST. LOUIS		TITLE: ADVOCACY MANAGER
ADDRESS: 295 NORTH LINDBERGH BLVD.		
CITY: ST. LOUIS	STATE: MO	ZIP: 63141
EMAIL: jbernstein@ncjwstl.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2023 11:17 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is Jen Bernstein, and I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 781 on behalf of the National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis (NCJWSTL). NCJWSTL is a non-profit organization in metropolitan St. Louis, representing over 5,000 members and supporters throughout the state. We focus our work on community service, advocacy, education and philanthropy to improve the quality of life for women, children and families while supporting individual and civil rights, and have been doing so since 1895. Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is Jen Bernstein, and I am submitting this testimony in opposition of HJR 19 on behalf of the National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis (NCJWSTL). NCJWSTL is a non-profit organization in metropolitan St. Louis, representing over 5,000 members and supporters throughout the state. We focus our work on community service, advocacy, education and philanthropy to improve the quality of life for women, children and families while supporting individual and civil rights, and have been doing so since 1895. We oppose this joint resolution because it undermines the will of the people. We should not be adding additional barriers to democracy. NCJWSTL encourages you to vote no on HJR 19.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: JEN BERNSTEIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-277-9080
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN ST. LOUIS		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 295 NORTH LINDBERGH BLVD.		
CITY: CHESTERFIELD		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63141
EMAIL: jbernstein@ncjwstl.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 9:36 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is Jen Bernstein, and I am submitting this testimony in opposition of HJR 19 on behalf of the National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis (NCJWSTL). NCJWSTL is a non-profit organization in metropolitan St. Louis, representing over 5,000 members and supporters throughout the state. We focus our work on community service, advocacy, education and philanthropy to improve the quality of life for women, children and families while supporting individual and civil rights, and have been doing so since 1895. We oppose this joint resolution because it undermines the will of the people. We should not be adding additional barriers to democracy. NCJWSTL encourages you to vote no on HJR 19.



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JENNA ROBERSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jroberson1181@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2023 5:23 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



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WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JENNA ROBERSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jroberson1181@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2023 9:05 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Please do not make additional barriers across multiple districts and jurisdictions. Keep the IP process unchanged and if you're really feeling that freedom, go ahead and make it easier. The people will still have their chance to vote so why make it harder?



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WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA WITTE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jess@jessicawitte.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 11:26 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Ballot initiatives give the actual people of Missouri a way to ensure their priorities are on the ballot. Restrictions on ballot initiatives take power from the citizen and hand it over to lobbyists and political donors.



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WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JOAN GENTRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: joangentry2012@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 1:03 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

January 30, 2023 Chairman McGaugh and Members of the House Elections and Elected Officials Committee, I am writing in opposition to the following bills: HB703, HB 780 and HJR 19. Each of these bills is a direct affront to the rights of voters to participate in the direct democracy process of the citizen initiated petition, whether statutory or constitutional. The intent of each of these bills is to make it harder, if not impossible, to collect the requisite number of signatures to place a petition on the ballot and/or to be able to garner enough votes for passage of a petition. The initiative process makes it possible for citizens to do what you can't or prefer not to do and that is to place an issue before Missouri voters and let them decide by voting for or against the issue. The process, as it exists, is difficult enough. Don't make it any harder. Please vote no on these three bills. Joan Gentry Springfield



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: JOHN BOWMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-322-4441
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NAACP ST LOUIS COUNTY BRANCH		TITLE: PRESIDENT
ADDRESS: P O BOX 210464		
CITY: NORMANDY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63121
EMAIL: jbowman@naacpstlouiscounty.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 9:13 PM

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When voters are denied an opportunity to participate in government, they may feel disenfranchised and disengaged from the political process.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JOHN POWELL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: john90195@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2023 3:03 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Vote no



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023	
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JUDITH CAMPBELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jacampbell314@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 11:11 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I oppose this bill to increase the threshold for an IP petition to pass. Shame on you to make this process more difficult for the voters/taxpayers.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KARI CRAUN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jkraun@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 9:38 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose this bill and other legislation designed to subvert the will of the people. This type of legislation which seeks to establish more power in the hands of fewer people is in direct opposition to the principles of democracy. If a majority of voters in Missouri are in favor of something, then it should be law. Remember that our government is supposed to be "by the people, for the people." If we stray from that principle, we are not in a democracy any more.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHLEEN DOLSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kdolson1@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 4:07 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Protect my right to have my voice heard in government through the petition process. Vote "no" on HJR 19. When our elected officials don't take action on the issues that matter most to us and allow us to make laws that reflect the will of Missouri voters, the legislature should follow the people's will instead of attempting to grab power by limiting our ability to make decisions for ourselves. Leave the initiative petition process alone! Respect the people's will and protect our freedom to have a say on the issues that impact our families!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHRYN SINCLAIR KARASH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kay.karash@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 5:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose this measure because of the gerrymandered state senate districts that will make it unlikely for an amendment that has a solid majority of the state-wide vote to pass. Not enough of the surgically precise districts that take a wedge out of a metropolitan statistical area, while keeping a slight edge in rural census tracts, will pass such amendments. I will never forget a rural legislator denouncing Medicaid expansion and refusing to fund it because "the rural areas voted against it."



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KEVIN PRANGE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kevprange@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2023 8:27 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am writing in opposition to HJR 19. This bill undermines the will of the people of Missouri and further drives an artificial wedge between Missourians. To require a majority passage in each Senate district silences the voices in those same districts who are in unison with the majority of the rest of Missourians. It is not the voices in St. Louis or Kansas City that will be silenced, but the voices in the small towns that are crying out for relief. Under our current system, those voices can find unity with the majority of their fellow Missourians. This measure would cut those voices off from the majority. This measure ensures minority rule - the antithesis of Democracy.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023	
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTINE FIELDS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kmfields2012@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 9:40 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This bill increases the threshold for passing initiative petitions at the ballot. It is an attempt to make it more difficult for the voter's voices heard.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LARRY MARKS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: lemilm1@att.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2023 11:17 AM
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I strongly oppose any changes to current initiative and referendum petitions. The current process is appropriate means to allow citizens of Missouri a voice in the laws they are to be governed by.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LAURA BURKHARDT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: aplomb-grove0n@icloud.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2023 10:05 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LAURA GUTIERREZ PEREZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: lauragutierrezperez@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 7:17 PM
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I am against voter suppression.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LAURA HANEY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: pollyannadanna@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 10:40 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose this bill



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LINDA BRUNNER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: grnthumb@windstream.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 6:46 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I feel strongly about public participation in decision making. I.E. Democracy. Do not amend the petition process.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LYN ELLIOT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: lynelliot6@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 8:01 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As a citizen of Missouri who has gathered signatures for number of ballot initiative petitions, I do NOT support making this process more difficult. It is already quite challenging to gather signatures under the current rules, and it should NOT be any harder for Missouri's citizens of all political stripes to place important issues on the ballot. The ballot initiative process is an important part of our state's Constitution, enabling a direct democratic voice for the people of Missouri. Please leave it as it is!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MAGGIE EDMONDSON		PHONE NUMBER: 314-368-1137	
REPRESENTING: PRO CHOICE MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1210 S VANDEVENTER AVE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63118
EMAIL: maggie@prochoicemissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 9:23 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Chairwoman McGaugh, Vice-Chair Stacy, members of the committee; thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today in opposition to HB 703, 780, & HJR 19 which would prevent the initiative petition (IP) process from working for the people of Missouri. Pro-Choice Missouri works to protect and expand every Missourians' right to bodily autonomy, to access essential reproductive healthcare, to access accurate information to make the best decisions for ourselves and our families, and to parent our children in safety and dignity. Moreover, we work to ensure reproductive justice for all Missourians, which involves advocating to reduce disparities based on race, income level, insurance coverage status, and other factors. Over the last 3+ years Pro-Choice Missouri has been heavily invested in several ballot initiatives including Medicaid Expansion, Raise up Missouri, and Clean Missouri. We had a team of 7 people who collected more than 5,500 signatures to help get Medicaid Expansion on the ballot. This number is only a fraction of the total 120,000 signatures that were collected by the larger campaign. Everyday our employees got up in the sun, the wind, the snow, and the rain, to speak to strangers on street corners all across the First and Second Congressional Districts. They waited on metro platforms for hours on freezing days being rejected by strangers, hoping for a few good conversations— from the most densely populated neighborhoods in St Louis to the most lonely country roads. Under current law, initiative petitions proposing constitutional amendments must be signed by 8% of the legal voters who voted in the last gubernatorial election in each of two-thirds of the congressional districts. The proposed changes in HB 703, 780, & HJR 19, if approved by the voters, would make the IP process increasingly more difficult by mandating approval by a majority of the votes cast statewide and a majority of votes cast thereon in each of more than half of the state senate districts, and over burdening signature collectors with unnecessary cumbersome regulations. Our small non-profit organization puts considerable effort into supporting these ballot initiatives, and makes up only a small fraction of the signatures already required. This amendment would require over 100,000 more signatures and would make it so only well financed groups could access the ballot. This change denies the people their voice in the process and preferences large monied organizations. HB 703, 780, & HJR 19 would make the ballot initiative process prohibitively difficult, because the task is already a monumental one. The measure is retaliatory to the millions of voters who voted in favor of medical marijuana, ethics reform, medicaid expansion, and so much more. Further, the increased attacks in this 2023 legislative session are a direct response to the overwhelming number of voters across five states who voted to protect and expand access to abortion in the 2022 Midterm election. Abortion access wins at the ballot. The majority of Missourians, 7 in 10, do NOT support political interference in abortion access. Missourians deserve MORE than power hungry politicians utilizing their positions of power to undo the will of the people they purport to represent. These measures will have lasting negative impacts in Missouri. Pro-Choice Missouri, representing more than 60,000

**members across the state, opposes the advancement of these resolutions, and urges you to vote NO.
Thank you.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: MARCEL HAGENS	PHONE NUMBER: 314-299-8753	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ACTION ST LOUIS POWER PROJECT	TITLE: POLICY COORDINATOR	
ADDRESS: 5925 ETZEL AVE. 1ST FLOOR		
CITY: SAINT LOUIS	STATE: MO	ZIP: 63112
EMAIL: marcel@actionstl.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2023 11:35 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

House Elections and Elected Officials Committee ATTN: Chair Peggy McGaugh February 7th, 2023 Representative McGaugh, On behalf of Action St. Louis Power Project, I would like to express our opposition to all bills submitted today that seek to limit democracy and the power of voters in our state. HJR 19 does one thing - it seeks to make it significantly more difficult for the citizens of this state to exercise their right to direct democracy. Missouri was born from the depths of direct democracy. Since its conception in 1875, our state's constitution has reserved the right for people to "propose and enact or reject laws and amendments to the constitution by the initiative, independent of the general assembly." It is contradictory to our innately representative government for our state leaders to be focused on adding obstacles for Missourians to participate in the democratic process. This bill and those like it show the hypocrisy of our state legislature. Since 1910, the constitution has been amended 182 times, and only 27 of those changes have originated through the initiative petition process. Each of these proposals has required 50% + 1 of the vote in order to pass. HJR 19 proposes to require amendments to not only require a simple majority of votes cast, but also the majority of votes in the majority of senate districts. The sponsor of this bill would like you to believe that this measure would be beneficial to the state... It is not. The ballot initiative petition process is about checks and balances and serves as an important part of our democracy by giving voters the freedom to have a say on the laws that govern us. This is important as we've seen our state legislature grow increasingly more paralyzed by partisan politics. This bill seeks to silence the voices of voters across the state and allow legislators to nullify the voice of the people that they were elected to represent. There are two ways to amend the constitution: The Initiative Petition process and through General assembly. Yet, the bill only proposes changes to the Initiative Petition process. Action St. Louis Power Project firmly opposes HJR 19 and any other bill that seeks to make direct-participation in democratic process more difficult and we urge the committee to vote NO. Marcel R. Hagens Policy Coordinator Action St. Louis Power Project



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARGARET ROWE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: rowemb45@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 3:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose JR19 on the basis that it makes direct democracy much more difficult and undermines the will of the people. When measures are passed by a majority vote, they reflect the will of the people. I urge you to reject this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARGO FARNSWORTH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Margo@screendoorconsulting.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 12:30 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am writing to express my strong opposition to bills HB 703, HB 780, HJR 19 seeking to restrict access to Citizen Initiative Petitions in Missouri. As a concerned citizen, I believe that this important tool is critical to ensuring that all voices are heard and that everyone has the ability to take action on the issues that matter most to them. The greatest negative effect would be to deny citizens their voice and allowing them to take action on issues they care about. This is especially important for groups who may not be adequately represented in the traditional political process, as Citizen Initiative Petitions can help ensure that all perspectives are heard. Citizen Initiative Petitions allow citizens to directly address issues they feel are not being adequately addressed by the government; this tool can help ensure that public officials are responsive to the needs and concerns of their constituents. Is it this that you wish to impede? The elected officials of this House should NOT believe themselves “parents” to their constituents. Contrary to current practices, they do not have the right to ignore their wishes and concerns of those constituents as they would children who do not know what is good for them. Such actions cripple a democracy and can only foment an ever increasing resentment between elected officials and the people they supposedly represent. Sincerely, Margo Farnsworth



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: MARILYN MCLEOD		PHONE NUMBER: 573-239-3708
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI		TITLE: PRESIDENT
ADDRESS: 3109 GREENRIDGE RD.		
CITY: COLUMBIA	STATE: MO	ZIP: 65202
EMAIL: marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2023 9:57 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

The League of Women Voters believes responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people. The citizen initiative petition process is the most direct form of voter participation in our democracy. This process has been enshrined in the Missouri Constitution for more than 100 years. The people resort to the initiative petition, especially regarding changes to the Constitution, only because they feel their voice isn't being heard. For an initiative petition to pass, HJR 19 would require not just a majority of votes cast statewide but also a majority of votes in more than half of the state senate districts. Why should limitations be set based on where the votes are cast? Voters are citizens of the state, no matter where they live. Putting up an extra roadblock means that some people's votes count more than others. It would, in effect, take away the equal rights of citizens as enshrined in the Missouri Constitution. The League of Women Voters opposes HJR 19.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MARILYN MCLEOD		PHONE NUMBER: 573-239-3708	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTER OF MISSOURI		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 3109 GREENRIDGE ROAD			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65202
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2023 12:00 AM	

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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARLA MARANTZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mjmarantz@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2023 9:34 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose HJR 19. It raises a bar so high that almost no initiative would pass. A majority vote reflects the will of the people and allows our voices to be heard through this important check and balance path to address change we seek.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARSHA LERENBERG		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: malpol2017@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 1:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I strongly oppose HJR 19 because it is an attempt to silence the statewide majority. Currently, measures require only a majority of total votes cast but HJR 19 increases the threshold for passage of both constitutional and statutory amendments to require not only a majority of votes cast, but in addition requires a majority of votes in each Senate district. Measures passed by a majority of votes as is currently the case, reflect the will of the people. Making it more difficult undermines our voices. Missourians deserve a government that promotes their participation in democracy and respects their majority voices. I urge you reject HJR 19 making direct democracy more difficult.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARY ANN WYNKOOP		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: wynkoopm@umkc.edu	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 5:03 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARY CLEMONS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mary.dale.clemons@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 11:06 AM
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I oppose any change in the threshold required to pass an amendment. Having an majority of votes reflects a true democratic process. Any change undermines the will of the people.



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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARY GROSS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: marygva@icloud.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 2:01 PM
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I am part of a combined group of Missouri Republicans and Democrats who are working to oppose change of our current IP process. Most citizens do not want this. I strongly oppose.



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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARY K. LINDSAY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mary.lindsaymsw@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 11:57 PM

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I strongly oppose HJR 19! To require that ballot measure win a majority of votes statewide, but also in half of the state senate districts is totally inappropriate.



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MAXINE CLARK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: maxineclarkceb@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 10:11 PM
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MO has a great ballot initiative system-- it is for the people to have a voice. No change is needed. It works. It allows our legislators to better represent the people through their votes. Many things in MO are broken but this system works. Please do not waste your time on changing it-- spend time and money on other issues that can make our state great like Early childhood education!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA VATTEROTT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-581-0561
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT		TITLE: POLICY DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: 725 KINGSLAND AVE., STE. 100 ST. LOUIS, MO		
CITY: ST. LOUIS	STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL: mvatterott@moenvironment.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 4:54 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

January 30, 2023 Chairman Peggy McGaugh Elections and Elected Officials Committee MO House of Representatives 201 W Capitol Ave., Rm. 402 Jefferson City, MO 65101 Dear Chairman McGaugh and Members of the Committee, Missouri Coalition for the Environment is a statewide, advocacy nonprofit organization that works to empower Missourians to protect their environment and health. House Joint Resolution No. 19 seeks to change the initiative petition process of Missouri. Modifies requirements for votes required to approval from majorities in more than half of the state senate districts to pass constitutional amendments. It will make it harder to propose and approve constitutional amendments initiated by Missouri citizens who wish to improve their health and living conditions. For this reason, we respectfully ask that you oppose HJR 19. This modifies the current requirement that such petitions be signed by 8% of voters in two-thirds of the congressional districts. It creates an added limitation of requiring more than half of the state senate districts to approve constitutional amendments that arise from initiative petitions, which differs from the current requirement. This will make the initiative process more difficult for Missourians to pass amendments that can meaningfully improve their lives and have their voices heard. We have our initiative petition structure to protect our democracy and create a balance between Missourians and their respective elected officials. Voters have confidence in this process because everyone gets an equal chance to vote and make a change. It empowers Missourians to collaborate and speak to issues that directly impact them and their communities. For these reasons, we are coming together to oppose any change to the initiative petition process. Once again, Missouri Coalition for the Environment respectfully urges you to vote "NO" on HJR 19 in order to protect Missouri's initiative petition process. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Melissa Vatterott
 Melissa Vatterott, JD Policy Director Missouri Coalition for the Environment
 mvatterott@moenvironment.org



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mdreyer93@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2023 2:42 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

When legislators pay more attention to special interests than to their constituents, we look to the initiative petition, the most direct form of voter participation in our democracy. Missouri's initiative petition system has been in place for over 115 years. It allows citizens to add their signature to a petition and put an issue on the ballot for a statewide vote. This critical tool, used through the years by citizens from all political persuasions, is now under attack by lawmakers who want to curtail the people's power. This valuable and trusted process is not easy, and the citizens of Missouri have not abused it. Missouri's current requirement for passage of an initiative petition is a simple majority of votes cast. The proposed changes would raise that requirement to also require a majority of votes in a majority of State Senate districts. It is absurd and unprecedented to require more than a simple majority of votes cast to approve an issue in Missouri. Our officials are elected by simple majority vote and can legislate by simple majority vote. It's hypocritical for them to legislate that we, their constituents, must then require more of the vote to pass ballot measures to counter their unpopular legislation. How is it that today's majority vote can restrict the Missouri voters of tomorrow and reverse over 115 years of precedent? Our democracy depends on the power of people to be directly involved in their government. The initiative petition process is a sacred and trusted right of the citizens of Missouri. It should not be restricted in any way. If anything, it should be made easier.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHELE STEINBERG		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: WOMEN'S VOICES RAISED FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: CREVE COEUR		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63141
EMAIL: membership@womensvoicesraised.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 7:11 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice is submitting this testimony in opposition of HJR 19. Increasing the number of signatures needed to submit an initiative and the threshold by which the petitions needs to pass makes democracy more difficult and undermines the will of the people. Voters from all sides of the political spectrum have used the ballot initiative process to advance their priorities and is the only recourse voters have when politicians fail to address the issues that matter to them. Gov. Ashcroft vetoed changes to the petition process stating "It is through the initiative process that those who have no influence with elective representatives may take their cause directly to the people. The General assembly should be reluctant, therefore, to enact legislation which places any impediments on the initiative power which are inconsistent with the reservation found in the Constitution." The citizen petition process is one of the purest forms of democratic participation. It promotes civic engagement as well as accountability between the government and the governed. Please do not make democracy more difficult.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MINDY SUE MCINTOSH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: msmomac@charter.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 2:58 PM
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he current initiative petition process is difficult as is, but it is the only safety valve for those who wish to educate and bring issues to the voters. In a state that is just about evenly divided between the two major parties, yet one party controls both Houses in the State Legislature, the initiative petition is the only way to introduce legislation to Missouri voters. This is an extreme measure, and we do not need any more extreme actions in the state



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MONICA M HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mc4466@swbell.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 9:32 AM

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The current requirements and processes are stringent enough. We, the people, should not have to do the equivalent of climbing Mt. Everest to place initiatives on the ballot. The democratic process guarantees us as citizens the right to be heard and the right vote on issues we feel warrant the scrutiny of Missouri voters. Issues brought to the ballot from certain areas that reflect the focus of those areas should not be blocked from the ballot by making it more difficult. Please, drop this oppressive effort to trample on our rights as citizens.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: NANCY DESLOGE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: nancy.desloge@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 4:17 PM
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We do not require candidates running for U.S. Senate to receive a majority of votes in each of Missouri's state senate districts. There is absolutely no reason to impose this restriction that changes what constitutes a majority in passing amendments to the constitution and changes to the statute. Such a measure would stifle voters' participation in democracy. The Missouri legislatures' interest in making the initiative petition process more difficult is a power grab that evades the will of the people. For their personal gain, these elected officials and wealthy special interests seek to make it harder for citizens to place important issues on the ballot, more difficult to pass initiatives, and easier to overturn the public's vote. It is wrong.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: NANCY J BATES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: nancyjbates@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 11:15 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

• The initiative petition process is an important tool of direct democracy that allows us to maintain our freedom to have a say on important issues. The Missouri legislatures' interest in making the initiative petition process more difficult is a power grab that evades the will of the people. For their personal gain, these elected officials and wealthy special interests seek to make it harder for citizens to place important issues on the ballot, more difficult to pass initiatives, and easier to overturn the public's vote. • A majority is 50% plus 1. Since when does "majority rule" mean 60%? Changing the threshold just makes it harder for the public to make decisions. The process is already rigorous - you have to get hundreds of thousands of voters to sign on before a measure even gets considered for the ballot. Adding additional barriers does nothing more than censure the voice of the people. • Voters from all sides of the political spectrum have used the ballot initiative process to advance their priorities. The ballot initiative process is the only recourse voters have when politicians fail to address the issues that matter to them. This tool has been used by conservatives, progressives, moderates, and independents.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: NANCY PRICE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: nprice07@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 10:37 PM
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It is unnecessary to impose this additional restriction on the Initiative Petition process. Only a very low percentage of IPs currently successfully pass now. This feels like another attempt to deprive voters of this important and over 100 year old democratic right.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: NANCY SACCONI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: nlsaccone@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 9:31 PM
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I am a Missouri constituent and voter and I strongly oppose HJR 19. HJR 19 would harm and damage Missouri's initiative petition process, which is a crucial aspect of our democracy. I have volunteered as an initiative petition circulator, even though I am already very busy with a demanding full-time job plus personal responsibilities. I know from personal experience that the initiative process is already rigorous and demanding. Everyday people like me end up devoting hours towards canvassing just to place a measure on the ballot, which Missouri voters then have the opportunity to approve with a majority of votes cast. HJR 19 attempts to harm this process by callously requiring more, by also demanding a majority of votes in a majority of "state senate districts." As we all should know, gerrymandering can shape districts to be anti-democratic. Thus this additional, burdensome requirement would harm the democratic process and hurt the ability of Missouri voters to have their voices heard. Note that I cannot give my testimony in person due to my work obligations. But please consider me present in spirit and please give my testimony the same weight as testimony given in person; this issue is extremely important and I urge you to oppose HJR 19.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: OTTO FAJEN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3202
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NEA		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: 1810 EAST ELM STREET		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: otto.fajen@mnea.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2023 8:22 AM

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The Association appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure. This measure would change the initiative petition process by raising the approval requirements for constitutional amendments. The Association is concerned that this measure will make it more difficult for Missouri citizens to bring forward and gain approval on measures of interest brought by the initiative petition process and opposes the resolution.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA BARTHOLOME		PHONE NUMBER: 816-813-0167
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KANSAS CITY		TITLE: VOLUNTEER
ADDRESS: 4331 GILLHAM ROAD		
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 64110
EMAIL: pbartholome50@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2023 11:04 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Testimony opposing House Joint Resolution 19, Pat Bartholome, League of Women Voters of Kansas City, 816-813-0167, pbartholome50@gmail.com. I represent the membership of the League of Women Voters of Kansas City, Jackson, Clay and Platte Counties. Missouri's initiative petition system has been in place for over 100 years. This valuable and trusted process is heavily regulated under the oversight of the Secretary of State. In more than a century, only 28 of 69 citizen-initiated Constitutional amendments have ever been approved. When Missouri representatives create more hurdles for petition initiatives to make it to the ballot as HJR 19 proposes, including requiring not only a simple majority of signatures, but also a majority of votes in a majority of the state Senate districts, it cannot be viewed as anything other than a measure to dissuade citizens to engage in the petition process, intentionally setting an unreachable goal. The League of Women Voters of Kansas City, Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties opposes bill HJR 19.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA O'ROARK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: poroark@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 3:25 PM

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HJR 19I submit the written testimony in opposition to HJR 19, introduced by Representative John Black, because the bill if enacted increases the threshold for passage of both constitutional and statutory amendments to require not only a majority of votes cast but also to receive a majority of votes in each Senate district. Currently, measures require only a majority of total votes cast. Measures passed by a majority of votes cast reflect the will of the people. People who care about an issue will vote for it or against it. It is the exercise of the vote that counts and 51% of votes cast is what should count. However, requiring that there must be 51% of the vote in favor of constitutional and statutory amendments in all 8 senate districts does nothing except make it almost impossible to change the law or amend the constitution using the initiative petition process. The state of Missouri is diverse. There are issues that are important to some senate districts that are not important to others. For those districts, an issue brought by initiative petition process may not attract as many votes as the measure will in another district. It doesn't mean the issue is not important to many citizens or to the state. Requiring the majority vote of each senate district does not reflect the will of the people. It undermines the will of the people who care enough to vote. I urge the Missouri House Elections Committee to reject this bill. Patricia O'Roark Carl Junction



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: PAUL T. LEHMANN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: lehmannpault49@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 11:12 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I was a petitioner to get the Green Party on the 2022 General Election ballot. We did not get enough valid signatures (10,000) to make it on the ballot. It was a challenge to do our petition work properly. HJR adds further barriers to an already difficult process and is going the wrong way. The House should make it easier for citizens to get issues important to them in front of public for their involvement in the decision making process not covered by the State legislature. To require a majority of votes cast in each of more than one half of the state senate districts for an initiative measure to pass is a grave mistake as it infringes on the fundamental principle of majority rule in our country. The sponsors of HJR19 know that the residents in most of the senate districts are a minority of the total state population. HJR19 would give small population senate districts in a particular geographic part of the state undo control over the whole of the state in measures that affect the whole of the state. It would further exacerbate cultural divisions that have diminished over the years as technological communications systems have broken down cultural divides due to isolation. HJR19 a tyranny against the majority of citizens in the State of Missouri and a further restriction on granting the will of the people to the majority of the people.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RACHEL CAHOW		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: rlcahow@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 8:35 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

HRJ 19 is manipulative. Why should initiative petitions have to meet different standards and requirements to pass than anything else on our ballots? It is discriminatory and takes away the right of the people of Missouri to govern themselves.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RACHEL SPEED		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Rachelghana@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2023 1:58 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am strongly opposed to any bills that would change our current initiative petition process. This petition system has been in place for 115 years. It signifies a direct way that the people of Missouri have a say in our government. In more than a century only 28 of 69 citizen initiated constitutional amendments have been approved. Changing the current requirement from a simple majority to a 2/3 vote would be making Missouri's threshold the highest of any state in the country. Democracy embraces the idea of quote of the people, by the people and for the people. "These bills threaten the rights of all Missourians to have their voices heard and to be directly involved in our democracy. The IP process should be protected and encouraged, not attacked and made more difficult. We elect all of you to represent all of us, and the people of Missouri want this process to remain the way it has been, a very effective tool that allows us to make a difference. In closing, , I am deeply disturbed that all 4 of the initiative petition bills made it out of committee last Tuesday, January 24th. There were over 1000 testimonies from Missourians opposing these bills. These numbers are unprecedented!! And yet still these pills passed out of committee. Clearly our elected officials are not listening to us, the people. We will not be silent. We will not stop using our voice, our power, and our determination to safeguard a sacred and very necessary process that allows us to to be a part of a democracy that we all should cherish.



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WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RAYMOND L. JAMES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: raymondjames552@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 2:07 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I think the current process is sufficient. I do not think that the process should be made harder or more expensive. I gathered signatures for Medicaid Expansion, Clean Missouri , Right to work , Medical cannabis and recreational cannabis. The current process to gather signatures consumed hundreds of hours and a couple sets of tires . Once placed on the ballot these issues all received enough votes to pass. I feel that raising the number of signatures, shortening the time period to gather the signatures , increasing a majority to 60 or increasing cost are simply unreasonable requirements. Why make it harder for citizens to participate in the process? We have fewer and fewer participating in the process. At most 40 percent of the registered voters even bothering to show up at the polls.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RICHARD EGAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: egan.egan@att.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 1:58 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose making changes to the Initiative Petition process. Since 1907, Missouri's constitution has guaranteed, "The people reserve power to propose and enact or reject laws and amendments to the constitution by the initiative, independent of the general assembly." The initiative petition process is an important tool of direct democracy that allows us to maintain our freedom to have a say on important issues. The Missouri legislatures' interest in making the initiative petition process more difficult is a power grab that evades the will of the people. For their personal gain, these elected officials and wealthy special interests seek to make it harder for citizens to place important issues on the ballot, more difficult to pass initiatives, and easier to overturn the public's vote. A majority is 50% plus 1. Since when does "majority rule" mean 60%? Changing the threshold just makes it harder for the public to make decisions. The process is already rigorous - you have to get hundreds of thousands of voters to sign on before a measure even gets considered for the ballot. Adding additional barriers does nothing more than censure the voice of the people. Voters from all sides of the political spectrum have used the ballot initiative process to advance their priorities. The ballot initiative process is the only recourse voters have when politicians fail to address the issues that matter to them. This tool has been used by conservatives, progressives, moderates, and independents. Please do not pass this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ROB CULVERHOUSE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: rculverh@wustl.edu	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 11:45 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am a Missouri voter who strongly opposes HJR 19. HJR 19 would damage Missouri's initiative petition process, a crucial aspect of our democracy, by imposing the effect of gerrymandering on the process. The initiative process is already rigorous and difficult. Everyday people like me end up devoting hours towards canvassing just to place a measure on the ballot, which Missouri voters currently then have the opportunity to approve with a majority of votes cast. By also demanding a majority of votes in a majority of "state senate districts", HR 19 adds the impact of gerrymandering, which can shape districts to be anti-democratic, into the process. Thus, this additional, burdensome requirement undermines the principle of one person, one vote, diminishing the ability of Missouri voters to have their voices heard. I cannot give my testimony in person due to my work obligations, I hope you will consider me present in spirit. Please give my testimony the same weight as testimony given in person; this issue is extremely important and I urge you to oppose HJR 19.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: RON BERRY		PHONE NUMBER: 660-537-2239
REPRESENTING: JOBS WITH JUSTICE VOTER ACTION		TITLE:
ADDRESS: PO BOX 722		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2023 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RUSSELLA LEVIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: rubescentdesign@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 1:25 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am opposed to altering the existing Citizen Initiative Petition Process in any way. It's a century old law that has produced many, many other good laws that Missourian's truly wanted made into law, and they worked hard to have them placed on the ballot. Recently, we passed medical Marijuana laws, and they have been a great help to folks who need help with pain. I am 70, and recently had serious surgery that I had to use opioids for, and I was able to wean off the opioids quickly with the help of my MM. It was a godsend to have legal dispensary's open and close by. NONE of this would be possible without the CIP we have in place. Keep your hands off the things that help Missourian's...we want our CIP laws to stay intact. Because the MO-Leg doesn't do much to help out the people, we have to take care of ourselves in spite of the obstacles you throw at us. THE CIP is our last resort to make changes in MO.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: SAMUEL G. LICKLIDER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-418-5069
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI REALTORS		TITLE: CHIEF LOBBYIST
ADDRESS: 100 EAST HIGH		
CITY: JEFFERSON CTY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: sglgov@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 7:34 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Missouri REALTORS supports the current initiative petition process. We believe that any changes that limit the ability of the citizens of this state to be directly involved in their government must be both measured and minimal. We will carefully monitor the progress of any proposals before the General Assembly and take such action as is necessary to protect this important right



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH SWISHER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: salswisher@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 12:08 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

This makes it more difficult for the people to have their say - and make it law. It's anti-democratic.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SCOTT MCKELLAR		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mck9@swbell.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2023 6:32 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

This bill is yet another measure to exclude the public from their own governance -- another step on the road to one-party rule. Just stop it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SHARON K DEWITT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Kwizmom@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 12:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose this bill!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SHARON SCHNEEBERGER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: sharon@schneeberger.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 3:46 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

The Initiative and Referendum Petitions are important to the citizens of Missouri. This process is non-partisan and provides all Missourians an opportunity to express their priorities to legislators in Jefferson City. We know from past history, few topics are placed on the ballot via this Process and fewer ultimately pass. Why, do you want to make the process more restrictive?



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SHELLEY SWOYER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: sswoyer2002@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 6:11 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I have been involved with a number of initiative petition campaigns. I was not paid or compensated in any way. I stood outside in all kinds of weather because I believed in stopping predatory lending, raising the minimum wage, and expanding Medicaid. I resent the comment I often hear that people don't know what they are signing. I've had hundreds of conversations with people and provided ways they could get further information. Gathering signatures is not easy. These bills seek to add many unnecessary barriers to the process. I'm also disturbed that they want to require 2/3 of the vote to pass. This, as you well know, will make passage nearly impossible. How many legislatively proposed amendments do you believe would ever pass with that margin? Probably none. The initiative petition process has been enshrined in Missouri for decades. It is the way for people to speak when legislators willfully ignore the will of the people. Please don't destroy this basic right of the people.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SHERRY L BUCHANAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: sherrybuchanan66@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 11:27 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Please do not pass this bill out of committee. The multiple attacks on Missourians' right to petition and to vote on legislation are a serious threat to our constitutional rights to participate directly in state government.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SLOAN SHEFFIELD COWELL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: sloansheffield13@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 9:46 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: STEPHANIE WIEGERS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: spwiegers@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 9:17 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Are we living in 2023? As a resident of this sad state, I OPPOSE ALL of the bills, specifically HJR-19 - Black.STOP trying to silence the voices of MO citizens by making the Citizens Initiative Petition process more difficult. National attention should be brought to any and all attempts to suppress the voices of Missouri voters by your corporate and dark money donors.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: STEPHEN MANN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mokandigital@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2023 8:29 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

February 2, 2023 Representative McGaugh and committee members. I am voicing my opposition to HJR 19 on a number of grounds. First the whole premise of this legislation and related bills is that Missouri voters aren't smart enough to understand ballot measure. Bad Bills like HJR 19 show ill regard and contempt for the intelligence of Missouri voters. Missouri voters traditionally have majority rule on issues and amendments. Why slide down that slippery slope into suppression of the Will of The People. The ballot initiative process is the only recourse voters have when politicians fail to address the issues that matter to them. This tool has been used by conservatives, progressives, moderates, and independents. Missouri has a 116 year proud history of citizen engagement in legislation through the Initiative and Referendum process. We owe much to the bold proposals that the People have enacted over the years such as the creation of the Missouri Conservation Commission, and a sales tax to support it's good works. The "Missouri Plan" for judicial selection, the "Hancock Amendment" which limited state and local taxes, term limits, campaign finance reform, riverboat gambling, medical marijuana and Medicaid Expansion were all approved by the voters through this democratic process. Thank you for your consideration Stephen Mann Kansas City, Missouri



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUE TOUCHON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: touchon@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 9:40 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

The initiative petition works just as it was meant to. The amount of signatures needed is enough of a hurdle to cull the petitions added. If a majority of the people are for an amendment the amendment should pass. The initiative process works for the citizens of Missouri



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN DEAN DEE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: susandeandee@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 7:50 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Missouri voters deserve to be allowed to consider tax measures initiated by way of petitions and their votes counted even if there is low voter turnout. To create a special threshold is insulting.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN FAIR		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: susanleefair@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 7:25 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Do not change the Initiative Petition. We the people, your constituents, want you to leave this option for us to participate in democracy alone. These bills are unwelcome power grabs.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2023 10:35 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 6:02 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This is a blatant power grab by the legislature. The process is already rigorous — we have to get hundreds of thousands of voters to sign on before a measure even gets considered for the ballot. Adding additional barriers does nothing more than censure the voice of the people.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2023 11:59 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This is a blatant power grab by the legislature. The process is already rigorous — we have to get hundreds of thousands of voters to sign on before a measure even gets considered for the ballot. Adding additional barriers does nothing more than censure the voice of the people.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN LAMMERT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: susanlammert@att.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 4:49 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

This puts the nail in the coffin for democracy. The current law on voting for Constitutional Amendments should not be changed.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN LAMMERT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: susanlammert@att.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 12:22 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I against any efforts to change the laws concerning initiative petitions. Currently we have a fair and difficult enough process for the public to petition and collect signatures for a statewide vote on issues of importance to them.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN SHUMWAY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: revsue4u@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2023 12:52 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Vote NO on any changes to the Initiative Petition Process. I do not support attacking Missourians' right to direct democracy, to check the power of their elected officials when those officials refuse to pass popular legislation.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023	
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: TARA ANURA		PHONE NUMBER: 573-612-4107	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SD16 DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE; LD143 DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE; PHELPS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE		TITLE: VICE-CHAIR PHELPS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE, SEC	
ADDRESS: 2007 MADISON PL APT D			
CITY: ROLLA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65401
EMAIL: tara.anura@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 7:50 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I oppose any attempt to change the initiative and referendum petition process. Initiative petitions (IP) have worked for both conservative and liberal causes. They are an important option for Missourians when they feel their voices aren't being heard in Jefferson City. Current initiative petition bills filed would make it harder to get an issue on the ballot and increase the threshold for an initiated measure to pass once on the ballot.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TARA CHILDRESS LOPEZ HALLMARK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: bellcoem@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2023 7:29 AM

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This purposefully silences the will and voting of the people, especially rural, medically challenged and impoverish individuals that entrust government to pose questions of consideration that could benefit from concepts that help their lives or hinders it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 19		DATE: 2/7/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TERESA JOHNSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: teresa.merlo@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2023 3:27 PM
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I believe in voters' rights



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TOM FERRI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: thomas.m.ferri@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 1:17 PM
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This takes away the people's voice.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TONY SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: tpsmitster@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2023 9:29 AM
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I submit this testimony in opposition to HJR. The initiative petition is a core right of citizens in a democratic society. It is assured in the Missouri Constitution but this bill proposes changes that would weaken citizen's ability to speak in opposition or confirmation of their elected officials. This bill increases the threshold for passage of any initiative petition. The IP process is already difficult in MO. Additional restrictions seem to have no purpose but to limit my rights as a citizen to speak out to you and enact laws that are in my interest. It does not escape my notice that this bill would be tested at the 50% threshold but wants to increase that threshold for petitions in the future. The pagination and legal challenges part of this bill are gimmicks to further reduce my voice. I am most decidedly against this bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TORI SCHAFER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-652-3111	
REPRESENTING: ACLU OF MISSOURI		TITLE: DD FOR POLICY AND CAMPAIGNS	
ADDRESS: 906 OLIVE ST			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63101
EMAIL: tschafer@aclu-mo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2023 10:35 AM	
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The ACLU of Missouri is strongly opposed to changes that interfere with Missourians access to the ballot initiative process.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: VANESSA WELLBERY		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: ADVOCATES OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF THE ST. LOUIS REGION & SOUTHWEST MISSOURI		TITLE: VICE PRESIDENT OF POLICY & ADVOCACY
ADDRESS: 4251 FOREST PARK AVE		
CITY: ST. LOUIS	STATE: MO	ZIP: 63108
EMAIL: vanessa.wellbery@ppslr.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2023 11:54 AM

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Advocates of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri opposes House Joint Resolution 19 and House Bill 703 because they impose additional, unnecessary burdens on Missourians’ right to directly petition one another and thwart the will of the people. Missourians have had the right to directly petition one another for changes to our laws and constitution for nearly 150 years. This measure is an attack on our history and constitution. Missourians of all political persuasions have come together and put measures on the ballot to make their voices heard and overcome legislative roadblocks. The current process to qualify a measure for the ballot through initiative petition is already extremely difficult, requiring hundreds of volunteers to devote thousands of hours to gather the signatures of 200,000 to 350,000 Missourians — one of the highest signature requirements in the nation — while the Legislature can put items on the ballot with a simple majority vote of politicians. To become law, a ballot measure must receive a majority vote. Imposing additional requirements makes it more difficult for Missourians to make their voices heard and undermines the will of the people. Whether by adding additional bureaucracy or imposing additional barriers for passage, both of these proposals make it more difficult — in some cases, impossible — for Missourians to engage in direct democracy through the initiative petition process. It’s plain to see that these measures are about silencing, not empowering, Missouri voters. Lawmakers should focus on making voting more accessible for Missourians rather than pursuing unnecessary, expensive and unconstitutional burdens on the right to vote in our state. Advocates of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization that engages in education, lobbying, and organizing activities. Advocates works on public policy to protect and advance sexual and reproductive health care access.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: VICTORIA W SINGER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: vwsinger82@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 6:36 PM
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My name is Victoria Weinberg Singer. I am a resident of St. Louis County and a long time lay leader in the Jewish community. Voters from all sides of the political spectrum have used the ballot initiative process to advance their priorities. The ballot initiative process is the only recourse voters have when politicians fail to address the issues that matter to them. This tool has been used by conservatives, progressives, moderates, and independents. I urge you to oppose HJR19. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DENNIS VANDYKE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: dennismarceline@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2023 9:59 AM
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