



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 93		DATE: 2/6/2024	
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			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BENJAMIN J. TRAVLOS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-1400	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI FARM BUREAU		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF STATE LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 701 S. COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: ben.travlos@mofb.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 6:41 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Missouri Farm Bureau supports this bill, due to its tightening of requirements for an initiative petition and giving more integrity to the process as a whole. Missouri Farm Bureau has multiple member adopted policies in support of reforming the initiative petition process.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: AMY HAMMERMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-494-5410
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN ST. LOUIS		TITLE: STATE POLICY ADVOCATE
ADDRESS: 295 N. LINDBERGH BLVD.		
CITY: ST. LOUIS	STATE: MO	ZIP: 63141
EMAIL: akuo.hammerman@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 3:34 PM

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

Madam Chair and members of the committee, I am Amy Kuo Hammerman, and I submit this testimony in opposition of HJR 93 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. HJR 93 would amend the initiative petition process by requiring proponents of a constitutional amendment to choose whether to submit the proposed amendment to the General Assembly for "vetting." If the vetting process is chosen, the proposed amendment would be subjected to the same committee assignment, hearing process, and floor debate as bills filed by legislators. The General Assembly would not be allowed to actually do anything to the proposed amendment, only debate it. If the proposed amendment goes through the vetting process, it would continue to require a simple majority for passage. If the proponents choose not to submit the amendment to the General Assembly, it would be subject to a higher threshold for passage of 55% of the state vote. For more than a century, Missouri citizens across the political spectrum have been able to have their voices heard through the initiative petition process. Adding this barrier does little more than insert partisan politics into a process that has thus far been a purer expression of the will of the people. It creates a two-tiered system in which the General Assembly receives several points at which it may kill the petition, through failure to assign it to committee or to vote it out of committee, or by default is raises the threshold for passage for no reason other than that the proponents did not let the General Assembly interfere with or delay the amendment before it could get to the voters. Lawmakers should reject efforts to make direct democracy more difficult and trust that the voters who elected them to office can participate without their interference. NCJWSTL encourages you to vote no on HJR 93.



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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: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 11:51 PM
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Very opposed. For additional information, please review my Public Testimony on the House archived video.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BEN SENTURIA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: bsenturia@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 11:09 AM

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

Like the vast majority....VAST MAJORITY...of voters, I support majority rule. I certainly hope that iyr elected officials do as well. For that reason, i oppose HJR 67 and 93, We voters are watching.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BYRON KEELIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-402-0655	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE MO		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 15095			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63110
EMAIL: freedomprinciplestl@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 8:52 AM	

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

We are opposed to this bill because it would take away the voice of the citizens. This bill blackmails citizen-led initiative petitions to be “vetted” by the legislature if a group chooses not to, it penalizes them by requiring a higher threshold for passage.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CAROL A. SCHREIBER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: carolschrei@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 12:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Direct democracy means that the legislature should not be involved in an initiative petition put forward citizens. The only reason the initiative process is used by citizens is that the legislature isn't doing the people's business. And then the IP must pass by 55%. Again, another proposal to end direct democracy. And this is for conservative and liberal groups.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CAROL ELLIOTT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: cello@socket.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 9:46 AM

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The initiative petition process as currently implemented in the Missouri Constitution doesn't need to be changed. It is an important tool of direct democracy when citizens don't agree with the choices legislators make.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CAROLINE TAYLOR		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: cjvtaylor@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 1:40 PM

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
Stay away from petition process!**



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHERI L CROCKETT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: chericrockett@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 11:14 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose HJR 93 because it seeks to make the Initiative Petition process harder in Missouri. The Initiative Petition is an important way for citizens to advance policies that are most important to them. The process is extremely important among Missourians of all political stripes. The current process is by no means easy. It is not broken. Please leave the Initiative Petition process alone.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTOPHER FOSTER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: cmfoster1986@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 1:11 PM

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

It is clear that this proposed change in the Citizens Initiative Petition does NOTHING to make the process reflect the will of Missouri voters. There should be no change. I.P. the one avenue we the people have answering the problems the state legislature refuses. There are enough hoops to jump through.



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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: 2/6/2024 12:23 PM

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

Protect the current initiative petition process! We the people must have a process to hold extreme legislation back. The MO constitution must work for the people. Do not support HJR 93! Vote no in HJR 93.



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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: 2/5/2024 2:46 PM

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**Do not change the MO initiative petition process! We the people need to be heard.VOTE No on HJR93
Do not support HJR 93**



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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: 2/6/2024 11:28 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As a citizen of Missouri, I am opposed to ANY attempt to modify the initiative petition process, which is a wonderful tool for citizens to use when we have no other recourse to make politicians listen to us. If we wanted it changed WE would bring it up and do so. LEAVE THE PROCESS ALONE!



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DANIEL LEIB		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: daniel.leib@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 11:05 AM
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I do not want the petition process to be weakened.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: DEE MILLER		PHONE NUMBER: 816-258-3346
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE MO		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: HARRISONVILLE		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 64701
EMAIL: deempr2662@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2024 10:01 PM
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This takes away the voice of the citizens. This bill wrongfully permits citizen-led initiative petitions to be “vetted” by the legislature if a group chooses not to, it penalizes them by requiring a higher threshold for passage.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DENISE LIEBERMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-780-1833	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION		TITLE: DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 6047 WATERMAN			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63112
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DON BICKHAUS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: doniibecky@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2024 3:49 PM
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This wording is too clunky and unclear.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: EDWARD L BRYANT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: elbryant1226@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 12:24 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELISA NEILSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ekatwell@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 3:13 AM
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Let the voters decide!! 1 Person= 1 Vote!! Honor our Constitution, that you swore to uphold!!



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH FRANKLIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: eafrank711@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 9:10 PM

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

Thank you, Madam Chair and Members of the Committee, for accepting this testimony. My name is Elizabeth Franklin and I am testifying in opposition to HJR 93. Having heard the testimony in committee hearing today, my initial thoughts were confirmed. This HJR makes little sense, has not been vetted for personnel demands, scheduling and implementation, serves no real purpose and is duplicative of other existing requirements. This HJR is not needed to provide factual information to voters and few if any will watch or attend your hearings. Non-partisan summary written by career professionals, such as the MO Legislative Library personnel could provide this service. That information then could be used by the Secretary of State and all legislators to publish in multiple media outlets. That's how voters could be reach, no legislation needed. Just a will to provide facts and truly educate voters. If the bill sponsor trusts the people of MO to make a choice as he stated today, then don't burden voters with the need to watch or attend a hearing to get information. For Senate hearings, that's logistically impossible. Put out the facts on State social media outlets, distribute through legislator's email newsletters, let voters obtain the information at their convenience and through their preferred source, then trust them to vote. This weird and complicated process isn't worth further consideration. I urge this HJR to be put "back in the box" right here in committee and not go one step further. I urge you to oppose this convoluted idea.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: GABRIELE EISSNER		PHONE NUMBER: 920-627-5996	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: INTER-FAITH COMMITTEE ON LATIN AMERICA		TITLE: CO-DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 5021 ADKINS AVE.			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63116
EMAIL: gabby@ifcla.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 4:29 PM	

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

Dear Honorable Committee Members, I appreciate the opportunity to be able to present testimony today. I am a Co-Director of the Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (IFCLA), an organization that has worked alongside immigrants and their families for more than 40 years, supporting their work for full inclusion in Missouri life. On behalf of IFCLA and the individuals and congregations we represent, I urge this committee to uphold our most direct form of democracy and reject HJR 93. The initiative petition process has been a beacon of representative government. It is an important tool of direct democracy that allows Missourians to make our voices heard on important issues in the state that we love. HJR 93 is attempting to change the initiative petition process to restrict our freedom. It would end majority rule in Missouri and take away our right to decide what happens in our own state. Our Missouri Constitution has long guaranteed that “the people reserve power to propose and enact or reject laws and amendments to the constitution by the initiative, independent of the general assembly.” HJR 93 is a clear attack on the century old tradition of majority rule in Missouri. Allowing the minority to veto decisions about laws in our state makes no sense and violates the sacred principle of one person, one vote. If a majority of Missourians support a law, it should be the law. Keeping a simple majority as it’s been for more than 100 years is just common sense. Voters from all sides of the political spectrum have used the initiative petition process to advance their priorities. This process is the only recourse voters have when politicians fail to address the issues that matter to us. If this legislation is to pass, future generations will not have the same rights that we do. We should not seek to permanently alter our constitution and deprive future citizens of the rights we all currently enjoy. When the majority is silenced by a minority, as would be the case if HJR 93 were to pass, our community would become even more polarized and disillusioned with our political system. For these reasons, I ask that you oppose HJR 93. Respectfully, Gabriele Eissner Co-Director Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: GENE DAVISON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: gdliberal@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 1:02 PM

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

My name is Gene Davison, and I live in Springfield, where I was born and raised. I developed an interest in government and public policy from my father, who taught me that as a citizen it was important to be informed and involved in my community and the state. I was not able to vote until age 21 – the legal voting age at the time – but I have voted in every election open to me since that time. I take citizenship seriously. Because I take citizenship seriously, I am opposed to HJR 93. By changing the percentage of votes required to pass an initiative petition, HJR 93 will make a goal already difficult to obtain – 50% + 1 affirmative votes - virtually impossible to achieve. I take citizenship seriously. That’s why I have volunteered numerous times to gather petition signatures on issues that I consider important to the citizens of Missouri. Issues that benefit our residents; our families, our children, our senior citizens. Issues that benefit thousands, indeed hundreds of thousands, of Missourians but that have not been addressed by the legislature. Initiative petitions exist to extend democracy to the people. HRJ 93 is an attempt to limit the voice of the people. Nothing could be more undemocratic. When the people speak, the legislature should listen, not silence their voice through undue burdens. In the signature gathering I have done, and the campaigning for initiative petitions I have supported, it’s long hours in both hot and cold weather. There is nothing easy about advocating for a cause that the legislature has refused to act on. You have to be dedicated and willing to face rejection from people who disagree with your position. It’s frustrating when the hard work fails. Not every petition makes it to the ballot; many don’t. Not every petition that makes it to the ballot passes; many don’t. Yet working on initiative petitions is one of the most rewarding things I have done. It’s rewarding because when working for initiative petitions, I know that I am participating in a process that allows the citizens to have a direct voice in government. I am exercising my right as a citizen of the state of Missouri. It’s rewarding when the hard work is successful; when the voters agree and pass the initiative. HRJ 93 will make that virtually impossible and undermine a 100-year-old Missouri tradition. Let the people speak without the undue burdens this bill imposes.



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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: 2/5/2024 6:57 PM

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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. 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 featured pictures of respected public servants such as Senator Yvonne Wilson and Representatives Mary Groves Bland, Bill Gray and Jackie McGee. Most legislators live up to the 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. He went on to vote for the first time in a presidential election he won. GLORY TO GOD. I do not understand why Medicaid Expansion did not pass the Missouri legislature. How could a state legislature refuse billion\$ of federal funding to comply with the spirit of federal law in deference to public health? Your health care is partially funded by the taxpayers in the gap!!! Many benefited from Affordable Health Care (aka, Obama Care) especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Missouri has profited from the influx of federal funding as one of the 41 Medicaid Expansion states. This was accomplished via a citizens' petition initiative. 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-67, -72, -76, -86, -93, -102 AND -119 AND

HB-1749 ARE NOT IN OUR BEST INTERESTS. The process which already exists requires a high threshold of signatures. It has served us well. REGISTERED VOTERS HAVE A RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS BY FIRST INITIATING BILLS AND THEN VOTING THEM "UP OR DOWN". WE VOTE LEGISLATORS "IN OR OUT" .Amazed by His Grace, Sis. Getta R. Hall (pronounced " G " as in Glory - "Ta" - "Hall" as in Hallelujah(816)-483-9759 - getta_hall@yahoo.comPS:I recently worked with Missouri Jobs with Justice as a paid signature gatherer for the citizens' petition initiative to raise the minimum wage in Missouri. We were at over 150,000 of the 200,000 mark needed to get this on the ballot this year. We must take care of the working poor as Jesus admonished us to in Matthew 25:40.In 2018, MoJwJ initiated a petition to raise the minimum wage which was then \$7.35. The campaign was successful and the subsequent ballot measure passed. The minimum wage was increased by \$.85/year until 2023 when it capped at \$12/hour.This 2024 measure would increase the minimum wage from \$12/hour to \$13.75 in 2025 and \$15/hour in 2026. A cost-of-living increase provision is attached. This will avoid the necessity of having to come to voters every 5 years.Additionally, paid sick leave based on number of hours worked would be included for other than small businesses. The public mental and physical health benefit of this is people would not have to go to work sick and/or send their children to school sick and make others sick because they have to go to work. This is especially important post-pandemic.Gathering signatures was sometimes very difficult.

1. People were skeptical about giving out personal information. Even when you have on a MoJwJ t-shirt and pass out literature, they can be hesitant. They might favor this bipartisan initiative but will not sign a petition handed to them by a stranger which requires them to provide their address.

- This is a legitimate concern these days given the incidence of identity theft. • Being added to marketing lists causes the nuisance of unwanted solicitations. • They often asked if they can "sign on-line" so they can maintain their privacy.

2. Some Congressional Districts were harder than others. • In Jackson County, we were expected to gather 12 signatures/hour (CD5). • In Congressional District 6, the expectation was 8. Then it was lowered to 5.3. Some businesses have a strict "no solicitation policy". I have been politely and not so politely asked to leave the premises. Even when management agrees in principle with what we were doing, they took the zero-tolerance stance. The threat of being charged with trespassing was evident.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 93		DATE: 2/6/2024
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: GINA MEYER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jemeyer1955@comcast.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 7:40 AM

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Oh, let's have the GA vet IPs, what could go wrong? Well, let's use, for example, the illegal delay tactics of our SOS and AG against the IP currently collecting signatures. They both lost in court, but they knew they would and didn't care, because the goal was to delay signature collecting. It is obvious that is the same goal of this bill, to impede the progress of the IP process, and get between MO voters and the ballot box.



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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: GREG CAMPBELL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: gcampbell@hammondshinners.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 12:04 PM
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This bill is an assault on democracy.



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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: 2/5/2024 9:04 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This resolution would raise the threshold for passage for initiative petitions unless a petition is "vetted" by both chambers of the the state legislature. This both adds substantial confusion to the process and ends majority rule. The legislature should not be curtailing the rights of the people by ending majority rule and adding unnecessary hoops to jump through.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JAHNAVI DELMONICO		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jahnavidelmonico@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 8:12 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Hello, my name is Jahnavi Delmonico and I have often volunteered my time collecting signatures for ballot initiatives, both successful and unsuccessful. I know first-hand that the effort, coordination, and perseverance required to put ballot initiatives to a vote of the people is enormous as-is. I can find no justification to increase that burden. Ballot initiatives represent the purest form of democracy available to us as citizens and constituents. No ballot measure has ever reached the voting booth without widespread support from Missourians. I and others like me from across the political spectrum have spent hours upon hours engaging in conversations within our communities about the issues that we see and the democratic process that enables us to address them. Whether we agree or disagree, direct voting brings the will of the people to bear on political proceedings that are often exclusionary. So, with our pockets full of pens and tissue paper to wipe our running noses on frigid mornings, we hit the streets time and again to have those conversations and raise our voices, together.



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: JAMES ROBINSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jamesmrobinson117@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 10:56 AM

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I am opposed to HJR 93. The initiative petition process is a check-and-balance against government overreach.



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: JAMES ROY TURNER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jimturner301@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 4:04 PM

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Our democratic initiative petition process serves the people of Missouri well, by enabling us to develop solutions to emerging problems, when entrenched special interests would block our Legislature from solving those problems. I oppose HJR 67 because it would weaken our democratic initiative petition process.



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: JASMINE CHING		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jching10718@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 10:18 PM
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I oppose



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: JOAN GENTRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: joangentry2012@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 4:08 PM

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I am opposed to HJR 93. This bill is an affront to direct democracy and one person one vote. Joan GentryHouse District 136



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHN BOWMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-322-4441	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NAACP ST LOUIS COUNTY		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: P O BOX 210464			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63121
EMAIL: jbowman@naacpstlouiscounty.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 10:34 AM	
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One person, one vote			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HJR 93		DATE: 2/6/2024
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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: JONATHAN PATRICK GARTIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jg977s@login.missouristate.edu	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 5:24 PM

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

My name is Jonathan Gartin and I am writing to oppose changes to the Missouri initiative petition process from the Missouri State legislator. Specifically HJR 93. I have talked with thousands of people in my community about getting petitions on the ballot and the importance of direct democracy in Missouri. I have personally benefitted from policies passed through the petition process, like the increased minimum wage petition in 2018. I have spoken with members of my community about how Medicaid expansion gave them better healthcare access, and how angry they were that the Missouri State government denied them those resources for so many years. Without voters taking that matter into their own hands and passing Medicaid expansion through the petition process, many more people in our State would be struggling to afford healthcare needs more than they already are today. The initiative petition process is sacred to the people of Missouri and our State Constitution. As a constituent in Springfield Missouri, I know that many members of the Missouri legislature only seek to make this arduous process harder for everyday people. Changes to the initiative petition process would limit voter's direct say in Missouri policy, and deny voters a fair process to take this initiative upon themselves. We the people of Missouri demand a fair process free from the intentional burden of our State government, to make our voices heard. One issue that is not divisive amongst the Missouri populous is their distrust of politicians in Jefferson City to work in their best interest. It is on you as representatives to regain that trust and legitimacy of your body. The worst action you could take towards that end would be to destroy the petition process which has held constant for more than one hundred years in our state. As a volunteer who has gathered signatures, and someone who values democratic principles at the core of government, I am outraged. There are so many pressing issues in the State of Missouri that our legislators should be addressing and have failed to do so. In conclusion, I share in the thoughts of many other Missourians that this effort is a power grab by Missouri politicians to take power away from everyday people and pocket it for themselves. I stand strongly in opposition to changes in the Missouri Initiative petition process



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JONATHAN SCHMID		PHONE NUMBER: 314-652-3114	
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF MISSOURI		TITLE: ATTORNEY	
ADDRESS: 906 OLIVE ST. STE. 1130			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63101
EMAIL: jschmid@aclu-mo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 4:39 PM	

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

Dear Honorable Committee Members: The ACLU of Missouri (ACLU-MO) submits this testimony in opposition to HJR 93. The ACLU-MO is the state affiliate of the national ACLU and works in the courts, legislature, and Missouri communities to defend and preserve the civil rights of individual Missourians, specifically of that to vote. HJR 93 proposes a mechanism for debate within the Missouri general assembly for each initiative petition certified by the Secretary of State. While the process purports to be optional, if it is not followed, the resolution increases the threshold to pass an initiative from simple majority to fifty-five percent of the statewide vote. The citizen initiative petition process is an essential form of direct democracy in Missouri. For over a century, Missourians from across the political spectrum have employed the initiative petition process to advance key causes important to the general electorate. Healthy debate on issues important to the general electorate is a good thing. More debate allows for more people to become engaged in the initiative process and our system of governance in general. Where this measure falls short is requiring this process be followed or face an increased threshold of the vote to pass. There are other options to increase discourse and engagement while not upending the initiative process. Host town hall events. Allocate funds to promote and facilitate voter registration and engagement. Pass a statute allowing for debate of petitions in committee or on the chamber floors. Or amend this resolution to allow for such debate without increasing the threshold to pass. The ACLU-MO supports healthy civic discourse and measures that promote such. However, for the reasons stated above, we cannot support this resolution in its current form. Accordingly, we urge you to vote NO on HJR 93. Sincerely, Jonathan Schmid



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JOSEPH JEFFERIES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: joe.jefferies@joe4mo48.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 12:22 PM
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I oppose each of these bills. Any changes to our initiative petition process are anti-democratic.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JOSHUA STEVENS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: josh.h.stevens@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 12:42 PM

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Considering this bill is treason against the citizens. I do not support changing the initiative petition process. It works great



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JUDITH ANN CAMPBELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jacampbell314@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 2:16 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am against HJR 93 as it changes the current IP amendment. The current IP is about Majority Rule but this bill wishes to change it to 55% to have it pass. This is a bad bill for the voters of MO for several other reasons. Keep the current IP amendment as it is written. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JULIANA SCHULZE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: schulzeju@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 9:28 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Honorable Legislators, I am opposed in making the Initiative Petition process more difficult than it already is. Not every state can look to the ability of the ordinary citizen to have a direct voice in their government. We should all be proud that we tout the voice of the people. Looking back at issues passed by Initiative Petition we see, The Hancock Amendment, Expansion of Medicare, public employee benefits, creation of the Conservation Commission, and the Missouri Plan for judicial selections. The latter was even adopted by other states. It is obvious that the Initiative Petition has been used to promote conservative and progressive ideas. That is the way democratic government should work. As our state motto declares in English, "Let the welfare of the people be the supreme law." When engaged citizens have access to a direct voice in their government the welfare of the people prevails. I actually don't understand why there are so many bills submitted by legislators attempting to minimize the direct voice of the people. Diminishing that voice would be shameful. Thank you, Juliana Schulze



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JULIE BURCHETT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: burchett.juliekay@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 8:22 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. Initiative petition in Missouri already has one of the most difficult thresholds in the country. Ours has worked for over 100 years. It does not need to be changed. Many legislators argue that it needs to be changed in order to protect the MO Constitution. That is a bunch of baloney! 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.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KARIN PAGE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: k1page1@yahoo.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 11:11 AM
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This is chipping away at our democracy. This is a very bad idea. Proponents of a proposed constitutional amendment can choose to have it vetted by the General Assembly (GA) after being certified, after which the petition would pass by a simple majority? GA cannot amend the proposed constitutional amendment and it's unclear the exact purpose of these hearings except to cause a shorter schedule to gather signatures to allow for this additional process.? Petition is to be reported out of the General Assembly by the third Friday after the first Monday in March. Unstated is when the petitioners must submit for this vetting process which requires committee hearings then debate on the floor of each chamber



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHLEEN MURNAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kmur1327@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 12:44 PM

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

My name is Kathleen Murnan and I live in Springfield MO. I am opposed to HJR 67 and HJR 93 Over 100 years ago, Missouri began to use the Initiative Process. This process gives a large number of Missouri Voters from all around the state the right to ask the issue to be placed on the ballot. Then, all Missouri voters can decide on the specific issue addressed. It is not used often but always give Missouri citizens this option to solve issues that the General Assembly could not resolve. Our General Assembly is overworked in the five months that it meets from January to May every year. That time squeeze leaves many things undone that could help out people. The Missouri motto "Let the welfare of the people be the supreme law" cannot be fulfilled when the legislative calendar is over-packed. The initiative process is a vital part of our Missouri system and allows the citizens of Missouri to Show Me a viable reasonable alternative to get the law making job done in a timely manner.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KAY MILLS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: millshosmer@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 4:20 PM

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

I've gathered signatures on several initiative petitions in Missouri. Every time, I've been in awe of the process. Citizens talking to other citizens about problems and legislative solutions. I've had hundreds of conversations with registered voters in Missouri, some who agreed with me and signed the petition, others who wanted to think about it and others who disagreed and didn't want to sign, but all the conversations were valuable in that we were able to have dialogue and discourse and really feel engaged in the issues facing our state. The citizen initiative petition process is a very rigorous process. Hundreds of thousands of Missourians must sign with their correct registered voting address, from all parts of the state. Of the initiative petitions that I've gathered signatures on, not all have been passed by Missouri voters once they've gotten on the ballot. But that's what democracy is - one person, one vote - we all get an equal say. And these proposals seek to undermine majority rule, and take that valuable piece of democracy away from Missouri voters. I am opposed to this legislation because it would fundamentally alter the direct democracy that we've had access to in Missouri for over a hundred years, a process that gives Missourians a chance to work together for change.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 93		DATE: 2/6/2024
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: KENDRA VARNS WALLIS		PHONE NUMBER: 816-210-3413
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI PARKS ASSOCIATION		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: PO BOX 8531		
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 64114
EMAIL: kendra.wallis@missouriparks.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 9:42 AM

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

Missouri Parks Association is in opposition to HJR 93. This House Joint Resolution to authorize a referendum on citizen-led ballot initiatives threatens the ability of Missouri citizens to participate in our state democracy. Requiring the legislature's review in order to allow a ballot issue to be approved by a simple majority of votes cast arbitrarily removes the people's reserved power to propose and enact or reject laws and amendments to the constitution by the initiative, independent of the general assembly. In addition, by requiring the General Assembly to conduct hearings and floor debate after the Secretary of State has already reviewed and approved the petition significantly and unnecessarily delays the start of signature gathering for citizens to have initiatives placed on the ballot, and it threatens Missouri citizens' ability to participate in the democratic process. Some of the best of what Missouri has to offer has come from citizen-led ballot initiatives, such as the Parks, Soils and Water sales tax that funds our world class state parks. On behalf of the almost 3,000 members of Missouri Parks Association who enjoy and invest in Missouri, we oppose HJR 93 and any legislation that would put a citizen's right to participate in our democracy in jeopardy. Do not advance HJR 93.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 93		DATE: 2/6/2024	
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: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kortniehuddleston@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 4:08 PM

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

I urge you to preserve Missouri's initiative petition process. 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. The Missouri Legislature is currently proposing at least 24 different bills that would make it more difficult to get an issue on the ballot and/or increase the number of votes needed to pass once on the ballot. These bills (and the legislator who proposed them) are: HB1749 (Haffner), HJR102(Lewis), HJR67 (Billington), HJR72 (Lewis), HJR76 (Hudson), HJR81 (Kelley), HJR86 (Black), HJR91 (Schnelting), HJR93 (Falkner), HJR94 (Richey), HJR99 (Schwadron), SB1003 (Koenig), SB1076 (Koenig), SB1270 (Schroer), SJR48 (Hoskins), SJR49 (Koenig), SJR51 (Eigel), SJR56 (Cierpiot), SJR59 (Brattin), SJR61 (Moon), SJR73 (Schroer), SJR74 (Coleman), SJR77 (Carter), SJR79 (Brown), SJR81 (Carter), and SJR83 (Eigel) thus far. Missouri's current requirement for passage of an initiative petition is a simple majority of votes cast. Proposed changes would raise that requirement to 60% or even 67%. Others require a majority of votes cast in a majority of Missouri's representative districts. It is absurd and unprecedented to require more than a simple majority of votes cast to approve an issue in Missouri. It is already difficult to meet the current requirement of gathering enough signatures from 8% of voters in six of Missouri's eight Congressional districts to qualify for the statewide ballot. Several proposed bills would increase that to 10% in all districts, requiring hundreds of thousands more signatures and making it almost impossible to get an issue on the ballot. This is unacceptable. 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 60-67% 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. I urge you to oppose any bill that restricts the initiative petition process in any way.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 93		DATE: 2/6/2024
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: laburkhardt3@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 11:21 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Just stop. At this point, you're embarrassing yourself. One person, one vote. It's been that way for over a century in my home state of Missouri. Who do you think you are, coming in and assuming you're entitled to take that away from WE the people? Even your own base sees through this anti-American nonsense. Leave our citizens petition process alone. If you would do your job, we wouldn't have to put so many issues on the ballot. I strongly urge the committee to vote NO. This is 1 of over 25 pieces of legislation trying to move the goalposts on Missouri voters. This is getting old. I'm so embarrassed for the bill sponsor.



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: LAURA MARCUS MOUNTJOY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Lmmountjoy@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 10:31 AM
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I want you to vote **NO** on this bill. Responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people. Missouri's Initiative Petition process is in place to allow our citizens to have their voices heard. It's already a difficult process to get an IP passed, and does not need to be made more difficult, which would result in MO voices being silenced.



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: LESLIE DERRINGTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: lederrington@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 3:53 PM

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nobody is asking for changes to IP. Leave our rights alone.



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: MADLINE FRISKE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mmfriske77@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 6:02 PM

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

My name is Mads Friske and I have been a volunteer signature gatherer for multiple ballot initiative campaigns. Regardless of the outcome of the campaign, I have valued the chance the initiative process has given me to discuss issues that my neighbors in Springfield, Missouri, face. I have had conversations with folks I never would have imagined to agree with via some of the initiatives I've backed, and the process has made my community feel more like a community. I've had hundreds of conversations with registered voters in Missouri - some of whom agreed with me and signed the petition, others who wanted time to think about it, and others who disagreed and didn't want to sign. But, all of the conversations were valuable to me and to the voter, because we were able to feel engaged about the issues facing our state. I vote regularly in elections, and I understand that sometimes my candidate or issue will win, and sometimes they will lose - but that is what democracy is. It is when everyone gets an equal chance to weigh in. Proposals that seek to do the opposite, are fundamentally undemocratic and unAmerican. This legislation will only further polarize our community and frustrate our citizenry because it means that the majority is being silenced by a minority. A majority is 50% plus 1. 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, with their correct registered voting address, from all parts of the state, before a measure even gets considered for the ballot. Adding additional barriers does nothing more than censor 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. I was granted the right to petition my neighbors directly as a voter in Missouri, if I ever felt that our government wasn't prioritizing things properly. I was inherited this privilege by previous generations of Missourians. It is a tool in our democratic toolbox. Future generations won't have the same rights as mine if this legislation is passed. 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." It is not appropriate for us to deny future generations the rights that we presently have. I am opposed to this legislation because it would fundamentally alter the direct democracy that we've had access to in Missouri for over a hundred years, a process that gives Missourians a chance to work together for a change. I respectfully request that you vote no.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 93		DATE: 2/6/2024	
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:	
REPRESENTING: ABORTION ACTION MISSOURI (FORMERLY PRO CHOICE MISSOURI)		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1210 S VANDEVENTER AVE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63110
EMAIL: maggie@abortionactionmissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 6:52 PM	

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

Chair, Vice-Chair, members of the committee; thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today in opposition to HJRS 67 & 93 which would squander the opportunity for the working people and families of the Show me state to effectively participate in their own democracy. Abortion Action Missouri, formerly Pro Choice Missouri, works to protect and expand every Missourians' right to bodily autonomy, to access essential reproductive healthcare including abortion care, to access accurate information to make the best decisions for ourselves and our families, and to parent our children in safety and dignity. HJRS 67 & 93 would make the ballot initiative process prohibitively difficult, because the task is already a monumental one. These efforts to upend majority rule in Missouri are nothing but retaliation to the millions of Missouri voters who took their freedom and their futures into their own hands and knocked doors, collected signatures, and voted in favor of medical marijuana, ethics reform, medicaid expansion, and so much more. Over the last 3+ years Abortion Action Missouri has been heavily invested in several ballot initiatives that align with reproductive freedom including Medicaid Expansion, Raise up Missouri, and Missourians for Healthy Families and Fair Wages Our small non-profit organization puts considerable effort into supporting these ballot initiatives, and our contributions make up only a small fraction of the signatures already required. This amendment would make it so only well financed groups could access the ballot. This change denies working people their voice in the process and favors large monied organizations with big bank accounts. The false sense of urgency promoted by those hoping to effectively dismantle our people's initiative petition process is nothing but a poorly veiled attempt to subvert and punish working Missourians who again, are ready to take their freedom and futures into their own hands and overturn Missouri's abortion ban. The supermajority party leaders of both chambers have said as much out loud- that they know that if the question of overturning Missouri's ban on abortion makes it to the ballot- that Missourians will vote to restore access to abortion in the Show Me State. Don't sell out the working people and families of our state just to maintain a policy that isn't even popular, and is causing daily and devastating harm. The majority of Missourians, 7 in 10, support Missourian's freedom to access abortion care without interference from politicians. 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, and is a critical tool to ensuring the people have direct access to their democracy. .Missourians support majority rule- don't go behind their backs. Abortion Action Missouri, representing more than 60,000 Missourians across the state, urges you to vote NO on advancing HJRS 67 & 93 and all attacks on majority rule. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MAHREE SKALA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: skalamahree@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 5:02 PM

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The General Assembly hearings required by this bill serve no clear purpose except to bog down the process of getting an initiative on the ballot. We have a long tradition of majority rule, one voter = one vote, and this seems to be an attempt to change that by adding unnecessary steps on a very unclear timeline.



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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: 8706 MANCHESTER ROAD, SUITE 104		
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63144
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



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: MARLA J MARANTZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mjmarantz@aol.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 12:46 PM

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

Amended...my last submission apparently didn't go through as I never got the confirmation email. This bill changes the procedure to allow an initiative petition to be decided upon by the General Assembly if the proponents decide this is what they want. This seems to defeat the purpose of the initiative petition in the first place. I am sure it would be very confusing to those who signed the petition with the wish an issue be brought to a vote by Missouri voters. I worry that people who signed the petition in the first place would then feel as if they were "fooled" by letting the legislature delay collection or placement on the ballot. If you are worried about people not understanding the legislation then having campaign finance limits. Another section that troubles me is the requirement of 55% for the constitutional amendment. Are you requiring this of the Missouri Legislature as well, both in referred petitions and for amendments they initiate for the ballot? As dysfunctional as our legislature seems to be this does not seem like a good idea. Deals fall apart. Please vote no.



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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: 2/5/2024 7:26 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Voters from all sides of the political spectrum have used the ballot initiative process to advance their priorities. Please leave the Initiative petition process alone. It is already hard enough for citizens to participate in this process. I am opposed to any changes unless you want to make it easier.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA VATTEROTT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-727-0600
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT		TITLE: POLICY DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: 725 KINGSLAND AVENUE, SUITE 100		
CITY: ST. LOUIS	STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL: mvatterott@moenvironment.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 8:57 AM

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

February 5, 2024 Representative Peggy McGaugh Elections and Elected Officials Committee Missouri House of Representatives 201 W Capitol Ave., Rm. 313-1 Jefferson City, MO 65101 Dear Chairwoman McGaugh and Members of the Committee, The 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. 93 seeks to weaken this power by proposing a constitutional amendment that would make it harder for Missourians to participate in the democratic process. For this reason, we respectfully ask that you oppose HJR 93. HJR 93 seeks to require an additional oversight process by the General Assembly over initiative petitions. While the oversight process is not required, if those who advance an initiative petition do not submit the petition to the General Assembly, the petition must receive 55% of the votes to become law as opposed to a simple majority if the petition does go through this new oversight process. Those who are advancing initiative petitions should not have to gamble the success of their petitions by deciding whether to submit the petitions to the General Assembly for hearings and floor debate. The Constitutional sections at issue in this bill, as currently written, were designed to give Missourians the right to independently engage in the legislative process in the face of corrupt politicians. Any attempt by politicians to weaken this right is only further proof of this process's importance. Once again, the Missouri Coalition for the Environment asks you to vote "no" on HJR 93 in order to preserve the constitutional right of Missourians to engage in the initiative petition process without interference from legislators who wish to make this process more difficult. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Melissa Vatterott, JD Policy Director Missouri Coalition for the Environment mvatterott@moenvironment.org (314) 727-0600, ext. 111



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL BERG		PHONE NUMBER: 314-644-1011	
REPRESENTING: SIERRA CLUB MISSOURI CHAPTER		TITLE: SIERRA CLUB MISSOURI CHAPTER POLITICAL DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 432010			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63143
EMAIL: Michael.Berg@sierraclub.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2024 1:59 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The Sierra Club sees House Joint Resolution 93 as designed to weaken the ability of citizens of Missouri to utilize their voice and their vote to democratically enact policies that meet their needs. We support democracy and citizen engagement and we oppose HJR 93.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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: 2/5/2024 4:08 PM

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

I urge you to preserve Missouri's initiative petition process. 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. The Missouri Legislature is currently proposing at least 24 different bills that would make it more difficult to get an issue on the ballot and/or increase the number of votes needed to pass once on the ballot. These bills (and the legislator who proposed them) are: HB1749 (Haffner), HJR102(Lewis), HJR67 (Billington), HJR72 (Lewis), HJR76 (Hudson), HJR81 (Kelley), HJR86 (Black), HJR91 (Schnelting), HJR93 (Falkner), HJR94 (Richey), HJR99 (Schwadron), SB1003 (Koenig), SB1076 (Koenig), SB1270 (Schroer), SJR48 (Hoskins), SJR49 (Koenig), SJR51 (Eigel), SJR56 (Cierpiot), SJR59 (Brattin), SJR61 (Moon), SJR73 (Schroer), SJR74 (Coleman), SJR77 (Carter), SJR79 (Brown), SJR81 (Carter), and SJR83 (Eigel) thus far. Missouri's current requirement for passage of an initiative petition is a simple majority of votes cast. Proposed changes would raise that requirement to 60% or even 67%. Others require a majority of votes cast in a majority of Missouri's representative districts. It is absurd and unprecedented to require more than a simple majority of votes cast to approve an issue in Missouri. It is already difficult to meet the current requirement of gathering enough signatures from 8% of voters in six of Missouri's eight Congressional districts to qualify for the statewide ballot. Several proposed bills would increase that to 10% in all districts, requiring hundreds of thousands more signatures and making it almost impossible to get an issue on the ballot. This is unacceptable. 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 60-67% 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. I urge you to oppose any bill that restricts the initiative petition process in any way.



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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: NATHAN WOLCOTT BLACK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: nwblack@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 11:47 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

My name is Nathan Black. I have lived in Missouri for 7 years and have been a regular voter in elections. Free and fair elections are vital to our democracy. Fairness means a process that voters understand and respect, even if they are not deeply engaged in politics on a day to day basis. Under no circumstances do these proposals qualify as fair to the average voter. They mean in essence that 20% of voters in the state could prevent a measure the other 80% of voters want from taking legal effect. How would you explain to your constituents that that is fair? Over the last decade initiative petitions have been an essential check on the policy failures of this legislature -- by which I mean (a) failure to make policy that represents the interests of the majority of citizens and (b) more recently, failure to do much of anything. This pro-democracy institution should be preserved, both now and in the future.



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: OTTO FAJEN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3202
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NEA		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 1810 EAST ELM STREET		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



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WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 93		DATE: 2/6/2024	
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: RACHEL SPEED		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: rachelghana@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 1:45 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I oppose this bill as it limits our ability to participate in our democracy and to let our voices be heard. The initiative petition process has the support of 77% of Missourians from all sides of the political spectrum. Please do not take away our freedom and our right to make changes that benefit the people of Missouri.



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			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RON BERRY		PHONE NUMBER: 660-537-2239	
REPRESENTING: JOBS WITH JUSTICE VOTER ACTION		TITLE: REGISTERED LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 722			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: ronalddberr@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 11:00 AM	
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Oppose



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: SARAH A. SWISHER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: salswisher@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 10:37 AM
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We should not make it more difficult for the citizens to be heard. I strenuously oppose changing the requirements to place initiatives on the ballot



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH YOO		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: sarah.k.yoo@wustl.edu	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 3:00 PM

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

My name is Sarah Yoo, from St. Louis. I oppose HJR 93, because democracy belongs in the hands of the people. The initiative petition process is a long-standing tool that allows citizens to let their voices be heard, especially when our elected representatives are unable to effectuate the will of the people. I oppose any bill that impedes direct democracy. I respectfully urge you to vote no on HJR 93.



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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: 2/5/2024 9:34 AM
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I oppose HJR 93. What purpose would be served by requiring committee hearings and House floor debate on citizen petitions? Using these venues would be use of taxpayer money to campaign for or against things suggested by citizens through petitions. Even though not currently empowered, is the House aspiring to change the language, intent, and components of petitions or stop them before they go to the ballot?



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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: 2/3/2024 10:26 AM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TERESA DANIELEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: tkmithen@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 4:35 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am the Rev. Dr. Teresa Danieley, a lifelong Missourian. I have participated in grassroots initiative petition campaigns many times as both a volunteer from 2005 to 2012 and as a staff person at Missouri Jobs with Justice since 2017. I first participated in gathering signatures to raise the minimum wage in 2005-2006 because, as a parish priest in the City of St. Louis, I encountered many parishioners and members of the wider community who were working for minimum wage, but struggling to make ends meet. Raising the minimum wage seemed like a common sense way to alleviate suffering and the need for working people to seek charity. In November 2006, that first increase in the minimum wage won easily statewide, across geographic and political boundaries. The initiative petition process is non-partisan and used by people across the political and philosophical spectrum. Since that first experience with the Missouri initiative petition process, I have participated again many times, as both a volunteer and a staff person. I have spent all day outside polling places and along parade routes in blazing heat and freezing cold. I have collected signatures in churches, synagogues, mosques, and union halls. Even in the nicest weather with the friendliest crowd, the signature gathering is slow, tedious work, filling pages ten signatures at a time. In the past year, I have also been notarizing initiative petitions and found that it is more complex to notarize an initiative petition than it is to notarize someone's advance health directive. One small mistake on my part could disqualify the signatures of ten Missouri voters and the hard work of a signature gathering volunteer. As a Missourian, I am proud that we have had the grassroots ballot initiative petition process available to us since 1907 as an important tool of direct democracy. The initiative petition process allows us to maintain our freedom to have a say on important issues. Qualifying a grassroots ballot initiative is already incredibly difficult. Making it even more difficult does nothing other than undermine democracy. As a Missouri voter, I have had the right to directly petition my neighbors if I thought our government wasn't prioritizing the right things. This right was passed down to me from previous generations of Missourians. It is part of our toolkit of democracy. If this legislation is to pass, future generations will not have the same rights that I do. We should not seek to permanently alter our constitution and deprive future citizens of the rights we all currently enjoy. A majority is 50% plus 1. Changing the threshold is undemocratic and would make it harder for the public to make decisions. As I have described from my own experience, the initiative petition process is already rigorous and incredibly difficult - hundreds of thousands of voters must sign on before a measure even gets considered for the ballot. Adding additional barriers does nothing more than censure the voice of the people. I respectfully request that you vote no on undermining majority rule. One person, one vote.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: TRINA RAGAIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EMPOWER MISSOURI		TITLE: LEAD POLICY STRATEGIST
ADDRESS: 1750 JEFFERSON STREET, #104900		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: trina@empowermissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 10:18 AM

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As the largest and oldest anti-poverty non-profit in our state, Empower Missouri is committed to improving the quality of life for all Missouri residents through advocacy. On behalf of our staff, board, and coalition members, we express our opposition to HJR 67 and HJR 93. We respectfully ask this committee not to advance any legislation which will alter Missouri's existing initiative petition process, including the two bills before it today. The initiative petition process is foundational to the Missouri law making process and ensures each Missourian has a voice in the laws that govern our state. The modifications proposed in HJR 67 and HJR 93 only serve to make it more difficult for Missourians to raise constitutional amendments for a vote of their fellow citizens at the ballot box. HJR 67 unnecessarily increases the number of Congressional districts in which initiative petition signatures must be collected, from the current requirement of two-thirds of Congressional districts to a full 100 percent of Congressional districts. This modification would drastically increase the time and resources required to complete what is already a resource-intensive signature gathering process, only serving to make the initiative petition process more inaccessible to Missouri citizens. HJR 93 unnecessarily increases the voter approval threshold from the longstanding simple majority of 50% plus one to 55% when amending the Missouri Constitution or imposes the state legislative body into the people's initiative petition process, requiring both chambers to hold committee hearings and floor debate on every certified initiative petition before it can appear on the ballot. This inflicts another roadblock requiring citizen-led initiative petitions to complete the signature gathering and certification process in advance of a newly imposed, arbitrary deadline. Missourians can and should be trusted to utilize the initiative petition process without unnecessary interference from the state legislature. The initiative petition process is one of the most important avenues for Missourians to directly engage in shaping the laws that govern our state. The bills being considered here today propose changes that will effectively exclude regular citizens from accessing the initiative petition process. Please do not take this important democratic tool away from Missourians. We respectfully request your no vote on HJR 67 and HJR 93.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: VANESSA WELLBERY		PHONE NUMBER: 314-531-7526	
REPRESENTING: ADVOCATES OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF THE ST. LOUIS REGION AND 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: 2/6/2024 5:05 PM	
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HJR 93 is yet another attempt to rig the rules with the goal of ending majority rule in Missouri. Majority rule has been Missouri law for 100+ years. HJR 93 undermines the bedrock principle of "one person, one vote." The initiative petition process allows Missourians to participate directly in our democracy. When out-of-touch politicians in Jeff City ignore what voters and their families want, Missourians can take a stand and push for change directly. The initiative petition process and "one person, one vote" are integral parts of Missouri's democracy.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: WINSTON APPLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: winston.apple@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 7:56 AM

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The vetting process proposed in this bill is the most interesting of the many variations designed to draw attention away from the fact that the main purpose of this bill and similar bills is to impose an anti-democratic supermajority requirement on proposals put on the ballot by the people of Missouri through the initiative. I am not opposed to the vetting of initiatives for constitutional amendments by the General Assembly, in fact, if done properly, it would be a valuable addition to the initiative process. I do see a major problem with the vetting process as proposed in this bill. The timing of the that process does not allow for the sponsor of an initiative petition to make changes based on input from members of a committee or the General Assembly without delaying the public vote on a proposal for two years. The process of getting an initiative petition approved for circulation takes approximately 45 days. Unless a petition were to be filed in the narrow window between the election in November and the second week of November, it would not be approved for circulation before the next session of the General Assembly began. Since most petitions would not be approved until after the next session began, the vetting would take place in the "next regular session", which would be the session beginning the following year. If any changes are made in a petition that has been approved for circulation, the petition must be resubmitted and re-approved for circulation (which takes another 45 days) and the process of gathering the signatures required to place a proposal on the ballot, which can take months and sometimes more than a year, would have to begin all over again. There would simply not be possible to amend a petition based on input from the members of the General Assembly. If the General Assembly wants to provide valuable input on an initiative petition, they should do so in a timely manner. Given that the General Assembly is only in session from January to May of each year and initiative petitions must be turned in to the Secretary of State with the required number of signatures by the first week of May, the General Assembly should conduct the vetting process during the regular session immediately following each general election or during a special session over the summer or fall, giving petitioners time to respond to suggested changes from the General Assembly and still get a petition on the ballot.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: YVONNE D REEVES-CHONG		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: seedistheword@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 10:23 PM
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**I oppose all attempts to strip or weaken Missouri voters' ability to hold elected officials accountable.
The current IP systems ensconed in the Constitution the principle that the will of the people is greater
than the whims of the government,**



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: TRISH VINCENT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-751-8731	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SECRETARY OF STATE		TITLE: DEP SEC OF STATE/COS	
ADDRESS: 600 WEST MAIN STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			