



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BYRON KEELIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-402-0655	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE MISSOURI		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 2			
CITY: BALLWIN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63022
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 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: MARK FIEGENBAUM		PHONE NUMBER: 573-690-8580	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI FARM BUREAU		TITLE: ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF STATE AND LOCAL AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 701 S. COUNTRY CLUB DR.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: mark.fiegenbaum@mofb.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 5:35 AM	

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

Missouri Farm Bureau supports this bill, due to its strengthening of requirements for gathering signatures for initiative petitions 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. Some of the relevant policies include: We believe the ability of out-of-state interests to instigate changes to Missouri's Constitution through the initiative petition process should be severely restricted. We support requiring signature gatherers be registered Missouri voters. We support limiting the use of professional signature gathering organizations for initiative petition efforts, including prohibiting payment on a per-signature basis and requiring them to register with the state.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SAMUEL H. LEE		PHONE NUMBER: 314-368-4242	
REPRESENTING: CAMPAIGN LIFE MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 142585			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63114
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMELIA FREEBERG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: afreeberg@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 11:21 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a citizen of Missouri, I am deeply concerned about HB 551 taking away my voice in the democratic process. I urge you to vote "no" on HB 551 to protect Missourians' right to a fair and accessible 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: 2/4/2025 8:03 AM	

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

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify in opposition to HB 575 and HB 551. My name is Amy Kuo Hammerman and I am the Missouri State Policy Advocate for National Council of Jewish Women, based in 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. House Bills 575 and 551 seek to impose restrictions on initiative petitions that assert a federal law as a violation of the U.S. Constitution or propose amendments to federal laws or the Constitution itself. This initiative is fundamentally unnecessary, as state laws do not possess the authority to alter federal statutes or constitutional provisions. Furthermore, the additional bureaucratic requirements introduced by this bill, such as specific font sizes, typeface, and pagination standards, could render otherwise valid petitions disqualified. Such regulations appear to contradict the ongoing efforts aimed at streamlining government processes, ultimately complicating an already intricate system. It is crucial to address these issues to ensure that the legislative process remains accessible and efficient for all stakeholders involved. NCJWSTL is also concerned that this legislation restricts the ability to challenge the sufficiency of signatures for initiative petitions to registered voters only. This limitation raises important questions about the accessibility and fairness of the petition process in Missouri. By excluding any citizen from the ability to question the validity of signatures, this legislation potentially undermines the democratic principle of civic engagement. NCJWSTL urges you to vote no on HB 575 and HB 551.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: AMY S THOMPSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: seuss1988@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 8:55 PM

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

Majority rule should decide issues in Missouri. I have heard that some representatives want changes to laws or the constitution to be legislated. With our current gerrymandered districts, this legislation falls far from accurately reflecting the will of the people which is why we need to protect the current IP.



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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: 2/2/2025 7:44 PM
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Responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people. And that starts and ends with allowing the peoples' voices to be heard.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ANN DIETERLE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: amd23225@icloud.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 4:38 PM

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I am in opposition to this bill. This is a well established process dating back 100 years in Missouri. Do not remove power from the voters.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections			
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: ANNALISA DEATON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: annalisa_deaton@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2025 10:58 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am in opposition to these bills that would take away the rights of the people and hand it over to politicians who clearly are incapable or representing the will of the people.



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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: ANNE CALVERT BETTIS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: annecalvertbettis@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 1:31 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This bill makes it harder for Citizen Initiative Petitions to get onto the ballot. One of the great things about living in Missouri is the ability, as a citizen, to have a direct impact on our lives through the CIP. The CIP has been used for both liberal and conservative issues. We should let the people decide! Please don't pass this bill!



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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: 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: 2/4/2025 11:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am Opposed to this Bill. Leave our State Constitution alone. There are numerous issues with this Bill. This Bill has bad effects and bad Public Policy. This Bill has zero Support from the Public. This Bill NEEDS to be defeated. Please view my Public Testimony on Committee Video.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BARBARA BOSHARD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: boshards@embarqmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 9:34 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Government needs to reflect the will of all the people. The legislature keeps negating citizens petitions. I need you to represent all of your constituents, not just the ones that agree with you. You are making it very hard for me to believe in representation after 73 years on earth. Please don't help destroy the voice of all the people.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BARBARA BOSHARD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: boshards@embarqmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 9:35 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Government needs to reflect the will of all the people. The legislature keeps negating citizens petitions. I need you to represent all of your constituents, not just the ones that agree with you. You are making it very hard for me to believe in representation after 73 years on earth. Please don't help destroy the voice of all the people.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BESS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: besspuls@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2025 10:02 AM
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Vote no



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BEVIN EARLY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: bfearly@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 8:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose



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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: 2/3/2025 4:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose this bill and any attempt to make it more difficult for Missourians to participate in direct democracy and the initiative petition process. The IP process is already rigorous enough and the legislature should commit to honoring the will of the people through upholding the initiative petition process as it's been for many years.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CARA MENGWASSER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: hrhcaram@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2025 11:18 AM

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
Vote NO! A minority of people should not have control over the majority rule.**



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAROL A. ELLIOTT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: cello@socket.net		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 11:11 AM

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

I am opposed to HB-551 and HB-575. Section 49 of the Missouri Constitution "Reservation of power to enact and reject laws" states "The people reserve power to propose and enact or reject laws and amendments to the constitution by the initiative, independent of the general assembly, and also reserve power to approve or reject by referendum any act of the general assembly, except as hereinafter provided." The Initiative Petition process is an important tool of direct democracy. It is the only way that citizens can override decisions made by the state legislature that go against the wishes of a majority of Missouri citizens. HB-551 and HB-575 are specifically designed to take power away from the general public and make it more difficult for the people of Missouri to make changes to the laws and constitution of Missouri. It is a tool used to allow minority rule to prevail. I disagree with the provision in HB-551 requiring petition circulators to be residents of Missouri or live in Missouri for at least 30 consecutive days prior to collection of signatures and prohibits them from being compensated based on the number of signatures collected. Many people who would like to be available to collect signatures work full-time or have child care or family responsibilities that prevent them from collecting signatures. Some potential signatures gatherers are too frail for this type of effort. I believe that entities which pay people to collect signatures should be allowed to function in multiple states, since the training required can be applicable to multiple states and this is way that some people are able to make a living. I disagree with the repealing of the requirement for the Joint Committee on Legislative Research to hold a hearing to take public comment on a proposed measure within 30 days of the Secretary of State issuing certification. It is important that the public be allowed to weigh in on initiative petitions and referenda. This is a way for the public to actively participate in our democracy. This right shouldn't be denied. The initiative petition process is already quite rigorous. There is no need to make the process more difficult and cumbersome; this is simply adding barriers to the democratic process. 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 am interested in our state being flexible and responsive to the needs of her citizens. The initiative petition process is part of the toolkit of democracy that preserves the rights of Missouri citizens. Vote no on HB-551 and HB-575.



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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: 2/4/2025 2:05 PM

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

Initiative Petitions are the only direct form democracy in the state of Missouri. I oppose efforts to make it harder to get the required signatures. I oppose efforts to repeals public comment within 30 days of signature certification. I oppose the blatant effort to overthrow all the work by dismissing gathered signatures. Vote NO.Carol Schreiber



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CAROLINE BROCK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Caroline_Christine@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 11:39 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Please oppose- Missouri should be responsive to the will of the constituents and not reduce public comment periods, making it more difficult to restrict petition circulators or make it possible for the court to dismiss gathered signatures



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CINDY MONTOYA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: cindymontoya23@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2025 4:32 PM
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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: 2/2/2025 3:47 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am a resident of Ballwin, MO writing in opposition of this bill because, once again, it is an attempt of certain Republican legislators to silence the will of Missouri voters. **WE WILL NOT BE SILENCED.** I will tell everyone I know and write in to the local paper about this as well. Instead, how about you do something productive, that you were actually elected for, like lowering prices or improving our schools? There's an idea.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CONNOR LUEBBERT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-291-2463	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 227 JEFFERSON STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA MAHER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: bfdaddy1981@icloud.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2025 3:20 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am in opposition to HBs 551 and 575. These bills are another attempt to end majority rule in Missouri. These bills will allow for a small minority of Missourians to veto a statewide proposal. The initiative petition process is an essential part of Missouri's democracy. It allows Missourians the freedom to make decisions about policies that affect them and their families. Majority rule has been the law in Missouri for over 100 years and needs to remain intact. Vote NO on HBs 551 and 575.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA MUELLER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: cndymllr@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 1:10 PM

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Please stop making it harder for regular citizens to participate in democracy. These changes are not needed and are harmful. Protect the current IP process!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANAI RINACKE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: traumajnke@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2025 9:02 PM

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Majority rule has been the law in Missouri for over 100 years. Initiative petitions set the precedent for establishing a new constitution in 1920, creating the first highways, establishing the Missouri Conservation Dept., limiting government taxation and spending through the Hancock Amendment, marijuana legalization, Medicaid expansion, and Reproductive Freedom to name a few. The current Republican elected officials are once again trying to take the power of the voter away and shift the power from the majority rule to the minority rule. I demand you do the job you were elected to do and that is to uphold the rights of the citizens of Missouri. It is not your place to continue to take away our rights by allowing a small minority of Missourians to veto any statewide proposal.



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BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: DEBORAH SEXTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: debbies573@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 12:03 PM
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Vote no on HB 551. Missourians are smart enough to vote and deserve to have our votes matter.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: DENISE BERETTA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: richwaitress2003@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2025 11:51 AM
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I am proud to live in a democracy and want to continue to do so.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 5:58 PM	

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The Missouri Voter Protection Coalition (MOVPC) submits this testimony in opposition to HB 575 and HB 551, which would impose a citizenship and residency requirement for initiative petition circulators. While those signing petitions for initiatives or referendums must be Missouri voters and therefore citizens and Missouri residents, limiting who can circulate such petitions for support and disseminate ideas infringes on the rights of free expression and bars circulators from engaging in political speech in violation of the U.S. and Missouri Constitutions. The right to free speech applies to everyone. HB 575 and HB 551's residency requirement is likely unconstitutional under both the state and federal constitutions. In 2023, a federal court in South Dakota permanently blocked a residency requirement finding it violated the First Amendment. Missouri's state constitution is at least if not more protective of free speech than the federal constitution, and a state judge in Missouri has enjoined a provision requiring those conducting voter registration to be Missouri residents and registered voters in the state on similar grounds. The Missouri Voter Protection Coalition is Missouri's statewide nonpartisan network of voter advocates who work to advance the right to vote for all Missouri citizens through policy advocacy, strategic litigation, voter education and Election Protection. Through the collective experience and expertise of our 70+ state and national partner organizations, we have provided this Committee with analysis and assessment of how pending legislation stands to impact access to the ballot for Missouri's voters. Among other things - HB 575 and HB 551: requires petition circulators to be US Citizens; imposes a 30-day residency requirement on petition circulators; prohibits circulators from being compensated based on number of signatures obtained; prevents legal challenges to ballot title to extend sooner than 8 weeks before election day; voids all signatures collected before any court ruling that substantially alters the language of the ballot title; repeals a requirement that the Committee on Legislative Research hold a public hearing on initiatives; prohibits citizen initiatives that would alter federal law (which is already the case); sets pagination page and font requirements for signature sheets, voiding otherwise valid signatures merely because signature sheets do not meet these requirements; provides that signature page forms be made available electronically, a positive reform. Two years ago, a federal court permanently struck a South Dakota law that included a 30-day residency requirement for petition circulators among a number of other regulations. The permanent injunction followed a ruling by the Eighth Circuit (which also binds Missouri) finding that the South Dakota law likely violated the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. This case resolved a parallel challenge to SB 180's 30-day residency requirement brought by the League of Women Voters that the court found raised valid claims under the First Amendment. The U.S. Supreme Court and the Eighth Circuit have consistently held that initiative petition circulation is "core political speech" where the "First Amendment protection for such interaction . . . is 'at its zenith.'" Buckley v. Am. Const. L. Found.,

Inc., 525 U.S. 182, 186-87 (1999) (quoting Meyer v. Grant, 486 U.S. 414, 422, 425 (1988)); see also Dakotans for Health v. Noem, 52 F.4th 381, 388 (8th Cir. 2022); SD Voice v. Noem, 987 F.3d 1186, 1191 (8th Cir. 2021). A critical step in the petition process is interacting with fellow citizens and engaging in political speech about the issues, putting First Amendment rights directly at issue. Restrictions on who can circulate ballot initiative petitions “significantly inhibit communication with voters about proposed political change,” and infringe on the free speech rights of those made ineligible. Buckley, 525 U.S. at 192. Further, by reducing the pool of potential circulators, these restrictions limit the speaker’s ability to spread the petition’s message. This conclusion is nearly universal in courts that have examined the constitutionality of residency requirements for petition circulators under the federal constitution, so much so that recent court decisions have defined this as a near consensus. Only the 8th Circuit has found otherwise, but in a case from more than 20 years ago that is largely discounted today, particularly in light of last year’s South Dakota ruling. Missouri’s constitution is even more protective. The Missouri Constitution guarantees “[t]hat no law shall be passed impairing the freedom of speech, no matter by what means communicated: that every person shall be free to say, write or publish, or otherwise communicate whatever he will on any subject.” This provision is at least as expansive as the First Amendment of the Federal Constitution. See Karney v. Dep’t of Lab. & Indus. Rels., 599 S.W.3d 157, 162–63 (Mo. 2020) (en banc). In November, the Missouri Circuit Judge Jon Beetem struck down a requirement in Missouri HB 1878 (2022) that voter registration solicitors be registered voters (and therefore residents) in Missouri, finding that the requirement “mutes speech and expressive activity” of the individuals not eligible to become voter registration solicitors, directly infringing on their free speech rights guaranteed under the Missouri Constitution. Judge Beetem further determined that the restriction “will also remove from the pool of potential solicitors many voting-ineligible Missourians” and “thus restricts the number of voices” conveying core political speech and thereby “directly stifles speech.” Similarly, the bills’ residency and citizenship requirements block a large swath of people from engaging in core political speech, and reduce the pool of individuals available to spread the petition’s message. The legislation mutes ineligible circulators on important issues, in conflict with state and federal law. By preventing those who have not resided in Missouri for at least 30 days from engaging in petition circulation, the residency requirement restricts who can circulate initiative petitions, thus limiting their ability to exercise political speech about measures they care about. “Such direct restraints on pure speech—and core political speech like encouraging political participation in particular—are antithetical to the core tenets of freedom of speech.” Henry v. Halliburton, 690 S.W.2d 775, 784-785 (Mo. 1985) (en banc) (citing Connick v. Myers, 461 U.S. 138, 145 (1983)) (“The First Amendment ‘was fashioned to assure unfettered interchange of ideas for the bringing about of political and social changes desired by the people.’”)” In addition, the bill’s payment restrictions also raise concerns. While some jurisdictions have upheld bans on payment of circulators based on the number of signatures, it is not the case that such mandates are per se constitutional. It depends on the burden it imposes. For example, while the court in Pierce v. Jacobsen concluded that plaintiffs in that case failed to demonstrate a severe burden of a Montana ban on payment per signature, the court made clear: “To be sure, it is possible for payment restrictions to impose a severe burden” and therefore be unconstitutional. We should not limit public participation as this legislation proposes. The initiative petition process is amongst the purest forms of democratic participation. For more than a century, access to the citizen initiative process has allowed for voter engagement by Missouri voters across the political spectrum - conservative, progressive and everything in between. Because the legislation unduly limits core political speech, we urge you to vote NO. Sincerely, Denise Lieberman, Director & General Counsel MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION 6047 Waterman Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63112 denise@movpc.org, (314) 780-1833 www.movpc.org



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: 2/4/2025 12:05 PM

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Trust Missouri voters. The petition initiative has served Missourians well for decades. I am opposed to any changes in the current petition initiative process.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections		
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 LUECKE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: dluecke5@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 12:39 PM
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I oppose the bills changing our current system. The voters have spoken and we want the Amendment 3 upheld, just as we voted on it. Also, we object to changing the rules regarding adding petitions to the general voting process. The constitution belongs to the people. You were elected to serve the people.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Elections			
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: DIANE MARIE MEEKER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-234-0342	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN; COLUMBIA AREA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 109 N KEENE ST			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL: columbiamonow@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2025 6:29 PM	

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The initiative petition process is an important tool that the regular citizens possess to make their voices heard in the state legislature, and it is challenging enough as it stands. We urge our representatives to not multiply obstacles in the path of Missourians voting on the issues about which they care deeply enough to go through the initiative petition process in order to put those issues on the ballot.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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: 1/31/2025 3:46 PM
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This bill will dilute the voices of Missouri voters by making it much harder to get citizen led propositions on the ballot. Politicians should let Missouri voters have their say and quit finding more and more ways to subvert the people's will.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: DYLAN VOSS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: dylanvoss92@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 11:15 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Many ordinary citizens like myself find it hard to advocate for issues, let alone more than once. Disqualifying ballots with signatures forces a double-back of labor and outreach, and this will only increase the proliferation of misinformation.



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: EA FRANKLIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: eafrank711@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 7:48 PM
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My name is Elizabeth Franklin, Plattsburg MO and I am submitting the following in strong opposition to HB 551. I am disappointed at the lack of understanding and inclusiveness demonstrated in this bill. This bill excludes recently-arrived military members and spouses stationed in MO. There is NO justification to require 30-day residency and not allow payment by the signature. Active military & families transferring to MO is common given that MO has over 30,000 active military and dependents. Spouses should have immediate ability to find part time work including petition work, it's ideal and flexible to allow picking up kids from school etc. Approximately fifty percent of school children in the Department of Defense Education Activity system are on free or reduced-price lunches; and approximately twenty-four percent of active military are FOOD INSECURE. Why disallow their ability to earn money thru petition work for 30 days? Resident requirements are cruel to the hungry who could be willing workers. As a young Lieutenant at Ft Stewart, GA I saw these issues first-hand, soldiers struggling to pay for food, fuel or other essentials. It's especially uncaring to even consider these restrictions for those who serve our country and may want to serve in MO if opportunity arises. MO should NOT be the state who pushes away these families. There are several other nitpicky, unnecessary ideas in this bill and I urge you to vote NO on this bill.



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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: ELISA NEILSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: ekatwell@yahoo.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 8:47 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The initiative petition process has been the law of the land for 100 years! It has worked for both parties and has given Missouri voters a voice. One Vote=One Voice! You will be telling all of the voters of both parties that their voice and thier vote is not important. You are destroying democracy!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections			
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 WERTZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: elizabethwertz220@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 9:02 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Liz Wertz and I have been a volunteer for multiple ballot initiatives in the past 4 years. I believe strongly in the initiative petition process, a process that has been in our constitution since 1907. I believe it is vital for this process to exist in order for everyday Missourians to come together and pass fair policies. Volunteering for issues like raising wages has given me a better understanding of the realities of my neighbors, as well as has given me the opportunity to build community. To qualify a ballot initiative, it is already extremely difficult. I have had to collect signatures in rain, snow, and extreme heat. I persevered because I was contributing to causes that were important to me and my family. As someone who has never missed an election, I have experienced my candidate or issue winning and losing, but that is the foundation of democracy. It is important that everyone gets an equal opportunity to weigh in, and I acknowledge sometimes it doesn't end up the way I want it to go. I am worried about proposals that seek to alter one person, one vote. As a Missouri voter and neighbor, I take pride and honor in knowing I have the right to petition my neighbors if I thought our government wasn't prioritizing the right things. That is the reason I submit testimony and directly engage with my representatives. The initiative petition process was a right and opportunity passed down to me from previous generations, my mom and grandfather have voted on initiatives that have impacted their lives, and I want to ensure my kids have that same opportunity, fairly. I respectfully request you vote no. Voters from all sides of the political spectrum have used this process to advocate for their priorities. This process is the only recourse voters have when our voices feel they are not heard by our representatives. This tool has been used for over a century by conservatives, progressives, moderates, and independents. We need to ensure that Missourians, no matter the political party or issue, have their voices heard fairly. I again ask for you to vote no.



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COMMITTEE: Elections			
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 A. HORNSTRA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: emlife@att.net		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 11:37 AM
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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: FREDA LAVON HOLLEY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: 1lessntx@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2025 12:36 PM
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Vote NO on this bill.



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: 2/3/2025 6:23 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 Capitol. 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 bus trips to the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City in support of Medicaid Expansion for citizens caught in the Affordable Health Care gap. 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!!! The Citizen's Initiative Petition process 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 it passed. 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 41 Medicaid Expansion states. This was initiated via a citizens' petition. However, it seems the spirit of the law was not followed as bureaucracy ensued and continues to-date with budget squabbles. THE CITIZENS' PETITION INITIATIVE PROCESS MUST BE MAINTAINED AS IS. It is an important check to partisan politics I saw evident in Medicaid Expansion that 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. HB-551 AND -575 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.com PS: From August, 2023 – January, 2024, I worked for Missouri Jobs with Justice as a paid signature gatherer for the Healthy Families citizens' initiative petition. It was certified after the pre requisite number of signatures were obtained and went onto the ballot as Prop A. 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 from \$7.35. The campaign was successful. The minimum wage was increased by \$.85/year until 2023 when it capped at \$12/hour. The 2024 measure passed. It will increase the minimum wage from \$12/hour to \$13.75 in 2025 and \$15/hour in 2026. A cost-of-living increase provision will avoid the necessity of

having to come to voters every 5 years. Additionally, paid sick leave based on the number of hours worked is included for other than small businesses. The public mental and physical health benefit is people will 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 non-partisan 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 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” to 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 no solicitation stance. The threat of going to jail and charged with trespassing was evident.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: GLENDA KUSTER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: glendakuster@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2025 11:29 AM

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It is wrong to ignore the majority! We're the people are to have the right to vote and have the majority rule. You do not have the right to change the rules silencing the majority on any issue. This is known as an abuse of power.



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: HOLLY BERNSTEIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: holly.e.bernstein@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 12:49 PM
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Missourians have enjoyed direct democracy through the citizen initiative petition process for over 100 years, and it is a truly nonpartisan tool that has been used by people of all political stripes. Having worked on an IP campaign, I know first hand that it is already incredibly difficult to get an IP on the ballot and then to pass it. The legislature should not be taking this direct democracy tool away from the people my making the process more burdensome. In addition, some of the policies proposed in this law either are irrelevant because they are already true and/or almost certainly violate free speech rights. Vote against this attack on direct democracy!



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: HOLLY EVANS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: hollyrevans@yahoo.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 1:52 PM

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The initiative petition process is one of the most basic forms of democracy, and it must be protected. These days there is such gridlock at the state level, this is truly a citizen-led way for change to happen. Making it more difficult for people to use this tool is tantamount to saying you don't want people to be involved in democracy.



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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: 2/3/2025 9:26 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

The initiative petition process gives Missourians the freedom to make decisions about policies that will impact them and their families. The IP process provides Missourians a direct path to participate in our democracy. When out-of-touch politicians in Jefferson City ignore what voters and their families want, Missourians can take a stand and push for change directly. The process is an essential part of Missouri's democracy. Please vote NO on the bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: JAMIE SZABO		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jamieszabo04@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2025 9:11 PM

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

Majority rule is the bedrock of democracy. If a constitutional amendment is approved by citizens of the State of Missouri, then the amendment should stand. Otherwise there is little point in putting matters to vote and thus we're no longer a democracy.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: JANICE MCLUCKIE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: urbanmoon44@aim.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 7:51 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This bill curtails rather than extends freedom and citizens' role in government. It is anti-democracy and intended to silence us rather than empower us.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: JEFFREY LUCY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jefflucy58@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 7:00 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: JENNIFER L TRACY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jtracy1203@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 1:29 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I'm a concerned citizen regarding proposed changes to the initiative petition process in Missouri. This process has been a cornerstone of our democracy for over 100 years, allowing Missourians like myself to directly shape policies that impact our lives and families. I strongly oppose any attempts to alter this process, which seem designed to rig the rules in favor of a small minority and undermine our ability to participate in democracy. The initiative petition process empowers us to hold our elected officials accountable and enact change when politicians in Jefferson City fail to listen to their constituents. Missourians deserve the freedom to make decisions about our state's future without unnecessary obstacles or interference. I urge this committee to protect the integrity of our democratic process by opposing these changes. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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 TROUT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jtroutfsm09@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 10:12 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I simply want to state that I oppose the initiative petition bills. They are an overreach and are trying to take power from the people and give it to legislators. This could backfire if the legislature ever flips parties, as it has in the past. It's important when you pass bills to think what could happen if you're no longer in power...



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: JILL ANDERSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jillyfitz@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 10:07 PM

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

These bills are bad. MO voters deserve to have their voices heard and to try and silence us on a technicality like using the wrong font is beyond ridiculous



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: 2/3/2025 3:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am opposed to HB 551. "The people reserve power to propose and enact or reject laws and amendments to the constitution by the initiative, independent of the general assembly." This is from our Missouri Constitution!!! How many times do you have to be reminded of this. Leave the Initiative Petition alone. This is a tool of direct democracy and represents the will of the people. It is working as it is. Joan Gentry



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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 HUNN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jonwillhunn@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 10:38 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose the petition because it seems to make it harder for voters to participate in direct democracy in Missouri. Additionally, this bill removes the mandatory public hearing step that allows voters to be informed of proposed measures before they are put on the ballot.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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 A CAMPBELL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jacampbell314@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 3:28 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I prefer the current version of the IP process. No need to fix something that is not broken. I urge you to vote NO on HB 551 and let majority decide IP issues on the ballot....don't muddy the waters. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: JULIE FRANCOIS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: julieafrancois@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2025 9:11 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

These are attacks to our petition process because it is perceived that the people do not know more than those elected to our house and senate. Please do not take power from the prior leader . We deserve to be able to speak up and make our voices heard.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: JULIE GAEBE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: juliegaebe@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 8:54 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Citizen petitions have been successful for both sides of the aisle. The process of gathering signatures to allow the citizens to vote is rigorous and tests the support and commitment to ballot initiatives. There is no better way to involve everyday citizens in our endangered democracy than putting ballot initiatives to the task of signature gathering and up or down simple majority of the voters of our state.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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: KAREN ANDERSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: anderson.karen@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 4:19 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

HB 551 is intended to make it more difficult to certify and pass a Ballot Initiative in the State of Missouri. The current majority rule model works well to provide true representation of the population. I urge you to vote NO on this measure.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: KATHERINE BROWN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kheimannbrown@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2025 8:54 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Vote no



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: KATHIE ALLISON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: katiea@planetkc.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 7:29 AM

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

this bill is essential for citizen participation in their democracy and places undue restrictions ion our basic right



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: KATHY J MARINCEL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kmarincel@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2025 7:13 PM

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

Imposes restrictions on petition circulators Repeals requirement for a public comment period within 30 days of Secretary Of State certifying signatures Requires final adjudication of a challenge to the official ballot title or fiscal note to occur at least 8 weeks before an election date Creates a scenario where a court challenge can result in the wholesale dismissal of gathered signatures



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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: KATIE HILDEBRAND		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: katieleehildebrand@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 11:38 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: KATIE MOLITOR		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: themolitors@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 10:42 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This makes it harder for Missourians to have our voices heard.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: KAY PARK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kaypark122@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 8:41 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Please oppose HB 551 and HB 575 which are exactly alike. They set additional restrictions on initiative petition circulation, which is already very stringent. These restrictions make an already daunting system required for the people to have their voices heard, even more difficult. The initiative petition process is the only way the people of Missouri can represent themselves when legislators ignore the wishes of their constituents. These additional restrictions are an attempt by legislators to thwart the will of the people and are undemocratic. A fair system of representation would be for legislators to collect as many Missouri signatures as the people are required to collect in order to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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: KELLI DOYLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kkpsoccer@aol.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2025 10:25 PM

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

This bill imposes numerous restrictions on the initiative and referendum process that could significantly undermine citizens' ability to participate in direct democracy and effectively petition for changes to Missouri law. One of the core tenets of our democratic system is the right of citizens to actively participate in the legislative process through initiatives and referenda. This bill imposes a series of burdensome requirements that would restrict the ability of Missouri residents to gather the necessary signatures for proposed measures. provision of this bill prohibits signature gatherers from being compensated based on the number of signatures they collect. This change would disproportionately impact grassroots efforts and smaller organizations that rely on paid circulators to gather signatures in a timely and efficient manner. By making signature gathering a purely volunteer-driven effort, this provision creates a significant barrier for less wealthy organizations or individuals who lack the resources to rely on unpaid volunteers for this crucial task. The practical effect would be to make it harder for all but the wealthiest political movements to succeed in initiating reforms, thus skewing the process toward groups with more money and resources. The bill also prohibits initiative and referendum petitions from being considered open records under the Missouri Sunshine Law, and restricts election authorities from providing completed petition pages to any entity other than the Secretary of State's office. This is a concerning move toward reducing transparency in the petition process. Open access to petition documents ensures that the public can scrutinize the signature gathering process and verify the legitimacy of petitions.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: KENETHA WEIDMAIER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ksweid@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2025 8:51 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Please vote no on this bill. Our vote is our voice and a minority should never tell anyone what to do.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: KIM WINTERTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kimijo23kw@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 3:43 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: KIMBERLY BOSTIC		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: bosticrobertd@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2025 3:00 PM

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

I'm opposed to any change in the voting process! We need to stay the majority rules, not a few special groups!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: KIMBERLY MAY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: hokiemule@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2025 4:55 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This is immoral and undermines the will of the people. You are public servants, it's time you acted like it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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: 2/4/2025 10:11 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

HB 551 (Martin) imposes citizenship and residency requirements on initiative petition circulators, which infringes on free speech rights protected by the U.S. and Missouri Constitutions. While those signing petitions must be Missouri voters, limiting who can circulate petitions restricts political speech and expression. Courts, including the Eighth Circuit, have consistently ruled that such residency requirements violate the First Amendment. For example, a federal court permanently blocked a similar law in South Dakota, and a Missouri judge recently enjoined a voter registration residency requirement, finding it stifled free speech. These rulings highlight the unconstitutionality of HB 551’s restrictions, which would reduce the pool of circulators and limit the dissemination of political ideas. The U.S. Supreme Court and Eighth Circuit have affirmed that petition circulation is “core political speech,” deserving the highest level of First Amendment protection. Residency requirements significantly inhibit communication with voters and restrict the ability to advocate for political change. Missouri’s constitution is even more protective of free speech, explicitly guaranteeing the right to communicate on any subject. In 2022, a Missouri judge struck down a law requiring voter registration solicitors to be state residents, ruling it directly stifled speech. Similarly, HB 551’s residency and citizenship requirements would bar many from engaging in political speech, undermining democratic participation and the free exchange of ideas. HB 551’s payment restrictions also raise constitutional concerns. While some courts have upheld payment bans, they are not automatically constitutional and depend on the burden imposed. The initiative petition process is a vital form of democratic engagement, allowing Missouri voters across the political spectrum to participate in governance. By limiting who can circulate petitions and engage in political speech, HB 551 undermines this fundamental right. For these reasons, we urge a vote against HB 551 to protect free speech and democratic participation.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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 S ENGLAND		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: lengland79@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 2:28 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I do NOT support HB 551 and want my voice heard. Please vote "NO" on this bill. Please remember that you work for the citizens of Missouri. Please do what is right for Missouri citizens by voting "NO". Respectfully, Laura England Lake Ozark, MO Miller County



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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: LAURALEE GARSON		PHONE NUMBER: 417-889-4582	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: RASHOMONUSA		TITLE: CEO	
ADDRESS: 2241 E. WASHITA ST.			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65804
EMAIL: lauraleegarson@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2025 9:14 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
Vote no on HB 551. Keep yourself free in a majority ruled democracy.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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 FERGUSON BENOIST		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: lbenoist7@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 12:24 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

PLlease let the people decide these issues. You are creating restrictions on those of us who circulate petitions, and erases the 30 public comment period. That is simply government overreach which of course is your point. Stop ham stringing Missourians who want their voices heard.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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 PHILLIPS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: lillindap@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2025 7:57 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I vehemently oppose this bill because it:Imposes restrictions on petition circulators.Repeals requirement for a public comment period within 30 days of Secretary Of State certifying signatures.Requires final adjudication of a challenge to the official ballot title or fiscal note to occur at least 8 weeks before an election date. Creates a scenario where a court challenge can result in the wholesale dismissal of gathered signatures.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: LISA WARD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: lisaward1962@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 12:48 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This is anti-democratic. Majority of votes wins the race. This bill is doing nothing but rigging the outcome.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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 OLIVIA EDMONDSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: ABORTION ACTION MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1210 S VANDEVENTER AVE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63110
EMAIL: maggie@abortionactionmissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 11:27 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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: MAHREE SKALA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: skalamahree@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 11:34 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

HB551 would make it harder for citizens to exercise their constitutional right to direct democracy. By imposing unnecessary restrictions on petition circulators, repealing the public comment period and requiring final adjudication 8 weeks before an election date, it places unnecessary obstacles in the process. It could also result in a situation where a court challenge would flush already-gathered signatures down the drain. Please oppose this bill in the interest of government that is responsive to the will of the people.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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: 314-299-87532	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ACTION ST. LOUIS POWER PROJECT		TITLE: POLICY COORDINATOR	
ADDRESS: 4138 NORTH GRAND			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63107
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: MARCIA L CRANDALL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: marcielynnsmail@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 12:10 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This bill is totally undemocratic. Is strictly an effort to disenfranchise the legal citizens of Missouri. The problem of non citizens trying to vote is non-existent, so this bill is unnecessary and therefore is a waste of time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: MARIAN BAUER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Marianbauer5985@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 2:02 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This bill puts too many restrictions on the will of the people.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: 8706 MANCHESTER RD., SUITE 104		
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63144
EMAIL: marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 2:39 PM

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The League of Women Voters of Missouri opposes this bill. 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 when the General Assembly is not listening to our concerns. Our state constitution has protected this right since 1907. This bill adds more red tape with the goal of making the initiative petition process more difficult. Lawmakers should focus on making voting more accessible for Missourians rather than pursuing unnecessary, expensive and unconstitutional burdens on the citizens.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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: marsha.lerenberg@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 12:17 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I strongly urge committee members to reject HB 551 and vote no. HB 551 does not propose changes that would make the process better in any way. It is designed to insert unnecessary barriers and obstacles in the process that has existed for over 100 years. HB 551 seeks to undermine our ability to utilize direct democracy through IP and an attempt to silence the voices of the people by making the process more difficult. Vote no on HB 551.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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 LOU TOFT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: revtumc@hotmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 10:30 PM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: MELANIE D BUSSE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: melbusse7@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 12:53 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Your continued attempts to make it harder for citizens to use a constitutional right they have been given continues to astound me. We are not blind. It is the citizen's process, and we will oppose any obstacle you want to put in our way. We will also be watching as you attempt to make the legislative amendments easier to pass muster. If I lived closer I would be attending the hearing in person to show my support for those speaking in opposition to this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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: 314-727-0600	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND STRATEGY	
ADDRESS: 725 KINGSLAND AVENUE, SUITE 100			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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: DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND STRATEGY	
ADDRESS: 725 KINGSLAND AVE SUITE 100			
CITY: UNIVERSITY CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL: mvatterott@moenvironment.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 11:50 AM	

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

Dear Chairman Reedy 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 Bill No. 551 and House Bill No. 575 establish unnecessary parameters around gathering signatures for initiative petitions and referendum petitions. For this reason, I respectfully ask that you oppose HB 551 and 575. The most concerning aspect of HB 551 and 575 is the stipulation that a court-ordered change to the official ballot title will invalidate all signatures previously gathered on the petition if the change is “substantial.” This legislative change seems intended to decrease the chances of a petition signature initiative ever reaching the ballot. Essentially throwing out all the hard work of a petition initiative campaign prior to a court reviewing the ballot title. There is no reason to throw out signatures if the ballot title summary is substantially altered by a court. 116.050 states that “each page of an initiative petition shall be attached to or shall contain a full and correct text of the proposed measure.” This means that everyone who signs the petition already had access to the full text and therefore are indicating they have full knowledge of the petition when they sign. Additional concerns include the text and formatting requirements for proposed measures. By requiring that measures be written in 12-point Times New Roman font with one-inch margins, HB 551 and 575 creates more technicalities through which initiative petitions could be unfairly invalidated. Similarly, HB 551 and 575 introduce arbitrary citizenship and residency requirements that generate further barriers to the petition process that are wholly unnecessary. It is also unfair that petition circulators are required to be residents. Petition endeavors require a substantial amount of time and money which leads some politically concerned residents to partner with national or neighboring state advocacy groups that care about the same policy ideas. These outside groups can offer increased capacity to concerned Missouri citizens by allocating staff and volunteers who may come from outside the state. 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 as we have seen Missourians do this several times in the recent past. For these reasons, MCE opposes any change to the initiative petition process. Once again, the Missouri Coalition for the Environment asks you to vote “no” on HB 551 and HB 575 in order to preserve the constitutional right of Missourians to engage in the initiative petition process without needless red tape. Thank you for your time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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: 2/4/2025 10:09 PM

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HB 551 (Martin) imposes citizenship and residency requirements on initiative petition circulators, which infringes on free speech rights protected by the U.S. and Missouri Constitutions. While those signing petitions must be Missouri voters, limiting who can circulate petitions restricts political speech and expression. Courts, including the Eighth Circuit, have consistently ruled that such residency requirements violate the First Amendment. For example, a federal court permanently blocked a similar law in South Dakota, and a Missouri judge recently enjoined a voter registration residency requirement, finding it stifled free speech. These rulings highlight the unconstitutionality of HB 551’s restrictions, which would reduce the pool of circulators and limit the dissemination of political ideas. The U.S. Supreme Court and Eighth Circuit have affirmed that petition circulation is “core political speech,” deserving the highest level of First Amendment protection. Residency requirements significantly inhibit communication with voters and restrict the ability to advocate for political change. Missouri’s constitution is even more protective of free speech, explicitly guaranteeing the right to communicate on any subject. In 2022, a Missouri judge struck down a law requiring voter registration solicitors to be state residents, ruling it directly stifled speech. Similarly, HB 551’s residency and citizenship requirements would bar many from engaging in political speech, undermining democratic participation and the free exchange of ideas. HB 551’s payment restrictions also raise constitutional concerns. While some courts have upheld payment bans, they are not automatically constitutional and depend on the burden imposed. The initiative petition process is a vital form of democratic engagement, allowing Missouri voters across the political spectrum to participate in governance. By limiting who can circulate petitions and engage in political speech, HB 551 undermines this fundamental right. For these reasons, we urge a vote against HB 551 to protect free speech and democratic participation.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: NANCY GOTH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ngoth02@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 8:34 AM

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Leave our Constitution & Constitutional Right as is.It's hard enough now.Moleg should Respect Voters.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: NANCY SACCONI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: nlsaccone@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 10:51 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am a Missouri constituent and voter and I strongly oppose HB 551 and similar efforts that aim to harm our long-standing, well-functioning, and valuable initiative petition process which allows the people's voices to be heard. I am a regular citizen who has volunteered for multiple initiative petitions, including both gathering signatures and talking with voters to inform them about the issues. I have welcomed those who have worked alongside me in these efforts, and I have also donated money to initiative petition campaigns and support spending such donations to support these efforts. I testify that the process is already rigorous, difficult, and demanding, and moreover it is a crucial process by which we Missourians can enact policies that are needed to improve Missourians' lives. I urge you to reject HB 551 and its goal of making the initiative petition process harder and more burdensome.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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: NATHAN J. MADDEN		PHONE NUMBER: 816-393-0105	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: HEALTH FORWARD FOUNDATION		TITLE: POLICY IMPACT STRATEGIST	
ADDRESS: 2300 MAIN STREET, STE. 304			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64108
EMAIL: nmadden@healthforward.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 2:51 PM	

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

Chair Reedy and Members of the Committee -On behalf of Health Forward Foundation (Health Forward), I submit this written testimony in opposition to House Bills 551 and 575. Health Forward works to support and build inclusive, powerful, and health communities characterized by racial equity and economically just systems. We oppose this bill as it adds unnecessary and burdensome requirements for signature gathering for initiative petitions. This legislation would render the initiative petition process in Missouri almost completely ineffective at translating the will of the people into public policy directly. This is why, despite the refusal of the General Assembly to address issues that the voters spoke loudly in favor of, voters appealed to the ballot to expand Medicaid, overturn a dangerous complete ban on abortions, and increase minimum wage in addition to paid sick leave in recent elections. We believe that it's important for everyone to have their voice heard in Missouri's democracy and these bills would damage this immensely. Irrespective of party, voters are vehemently opposed to their state legislatures limiting the citizen-initiated petition process, with at least three-quarters of Republicans, Independents, and Democrats opposing changes according to the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center (<https://ballot.org/11-state-ballot-initiative-voter-attitudes-research/>). This is important in states where control of the government is held entirely by one party, no matter which party, so that people can believe their vote has a chance at affecting public policy. Furthermore, advancing health equity – where no matter who you are or where you live, you have a fair shot at a healthy, productive life – is a key function of ballot initiatives (<https://www.rwjf.org/en/insights/blog/2024/03/why-we-are-defending-policy-tools-that-advance-equity.html>). Missouri has made huge strides on this front in the past few years and we want to continue to make progress to benefit everyone in the state, not just the well-off few. Health Forward asks legislators on this committee to vote NO on HBs 551 and 575. These bills would discourage people's participation in the democratic process and limit the ability for people to believe their voice can impact meaningful change. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or would like additional resources at nmadden@healthforward.org Respectfully, Nathan J. Madden, Ph.D. Impact Strategist - Policy Health Forward Foundation



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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: NEVA SPRUNG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: sprungn@att.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 12:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Administrative mandates for font, type size, and pagination that could disqualify otherwise valid petitions. Requiring signatures pages to be made available electronically. Needless rules prohibiting IPs that declare a federal law a violation of the US constitution, or that amend any federal law or the US Constitution - something that is already outside the ability of a state law to do. Requires petition gatherers to be US Citizens, and residents of Missouri - provisions like this have been found unconstitutional. Prohibiting petition gatherers from being paid based on numbers of signatures collected - typically the way campaigns set and meet their goals. Limiting who can challenge the fairness or accuracy of a ballot title or fiscal note to only registered voters. Currently any Missouri citizen can bring such a challenge. It would also prohibit any relief less than eight weeks before an election, allowing strategic delays to potentially block access to fair and accurate ballot languages. Only a voter - as opposed to any Missouri citizen - can challenge the sufficiency of signatures submitted to get an initiative petition on the ballot. That if a court substantially changes the language of an IP summary statement or ballot title that any signatures collected before that point are invalidated



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: PATRICIA BARROWS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: pabaway@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 10:34 AM
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Vote no, stop trying to make it more difficult to vote.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: PATRICIA JONES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: bartolaccipj@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 10:53 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

My name is Patricia Jones, and I live in St. Louis, Mo. I am writing to voice my opposition to HB551. It imposes restrictions on petition circulators. Repeals requirement for a public comment period within 30 days of Secretary Of State certifying signatures. Requires final adjudication of a challenge to the official ballot title or fiscal note to occur at least 8 weeks before an election date. Creates a scenario where a court challenge can result in the wholesale dismissal of gathered signatures.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: PATRICIA M OROARK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: poroark@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 2:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I speak in opposition to HB575, for two reasons. The initiative petition has been a part of our Missouri constitution for over 100 years. It is the form of direct democracy that allows citizens to make law or change the constitution without the aid of the state legislature. It is a difficult process and generally is used when the state legislature will not act on an issue that is important to the citizens. However, the signature gathering process should not be restricted by requiring petition circulators to be Missouri citizens or prohibited from paying individuals any more than candidates are restricted from paying for help in an election campaign. What's important is that the signatures collected are valid and that enough are gathered to be certified for ballot. In the end, it is the vote of a majority of those voting that decides whether the measure is passed. Second, limiting the privilege of challenge of a ballot title or fiscal note for a Constitutional amendment, initiative petition, or referendum measure to only registered voters serves no useful purpose except to add an unnecessary impediment to making law by direct democracy. The Missouri constitution does not put this limit on the initiative petition process. Nor should it. Limiting the proposed challenge in such a way creates two classes of citizens but adds nothing to direct democracy which the initiative petition process represents.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 10:31 PM

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The withdrawal of the right to petition the crown was a major reason for the revolution. I get that there have now been several " liberal" items pass by using the Citizen Initiative Petition Process and conservatives do not like what has passed. That however is not justification to eliminate or change the process to make it harder to put something on the ballot. The GOP has now had a majority in the House for 20 years and as such has not needed to use the Citizen Initiative Process. When things turn around, conservatives will need to use the process to get their initiatives in front of voters. It should remain unchanged. Difficult but not impossible.



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: REBEKAH BERKOWITZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: rebek_b@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 3:34 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

These bills make it harder for Missourians to have a voice in government by imposing restrictions on petition circulators, repealing requirement for a public comment period within 30 days of Secretary Of State certifying signatures and requiring final adjudication of a challenge to the official ballot title or fiscal note to occur at least 8 weeks before an election date. Also it creates a situation where a court challenge can result in an entire dismissal of gathered signatures. Missouri citizens deserve a voice in their government. Not be be hamstrung. These bills are WRONG.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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 WISKUS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: richardwiskus@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 4:05 PM

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

this is unnecessary and places obstacles in the way for something that has been in place for sometime and may in part be against the either or both state and federal constitutions



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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: RIVA E CAPELLARI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: rivacapellari@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 12:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: ROBYN CROSBY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: crosbyr001@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 9:02 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Simply put, HB 551 and HB 575 are another attempt at ending majority rule in Missouri. Politicians want to rig the rules to end majority rule in Missouri and take away our rights. By changing the rules for constitutional amendments, politicians want to rig the rules so a small minority of Missourians can veto any statewide proposal. Majority rule has been the law in Missouri for over 100 years. Politicians are trying to trick the constituents into giving away their rights. Legislators are trying every trick they can to confuse and distract voters from their real agenda. But the voters are not going to let that happen. The initiative petition process gives Missourians the freedom to make decisions about policies that will impact them and their families. The IP process provides Missourians a direct path to participate in our democracy. When out-of-touch politicians in Jefferson City ignore what voters and their families want, Missourians can take a stand and push for change directly. The process is an essential part of Missouri's democracy.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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: P.O. BOX 722			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: RUTH MILLEDGE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: rmille2000@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 3:19 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I, Ruth Milledge of Columbia, MO65203, respectfully request that you oppose HB 551. I have worked for several Initiative Petitions. Having one placed on the ballot requires long, hard work. Educating voters about the issues at hand in order to pass the initiative requires even more. This is as it should be. Hard but not impossible because the Initiative petition process is a democratic one. The features of HB 551: Restricting petition circulators, repealing public comment period, requiring final adjudication to official ballot title to at least eight weeks before election date are measures that would make this important democratic process impossible. Please oppose it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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: SAMANTHA ROHAUS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: sammyr@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2025 11:21 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Missourians have had the right of majority rule for over 100 years. HB 551 would take away our rights, allowing a small minority of Missourians to veto any statewide proposal. This bill is a direct attack on Missourians who voted down the abortion amendment last year. The majority spoke. Legislators need to listen. Vote NO on HB 551.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: 2/2/2025 12:13 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As a Missourian [and a voter, I might add], I want majority rule - not to be overseen by some partisan cabal.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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 FELTS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: sarah.felts@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 1:27 PM

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

HB 551 strips power from the people and undermines direct democracy by imposing unnecessary, burdensome requirements on the citizen initiative petition process.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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 MCMASTERS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: scotty.mcm93@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2025 10:21 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Taking away the ability of all Missouri citizens right to challenge an official ballot title or fiscal note for a Constitutional amendment, initiative petition, or referendum measure is going to far. All citizens should have this right to better engage and inform our elected officials with their constituents.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: SHARMINI ROGERS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Sharminirogers@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 8:06 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I believe that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people. Every citizen counts and every legal citizen should be allowed to make their voice heard. The Legislature is elected by the people so please look into your heart and represent us.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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: 2/3/2025 4:19 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello, My name is Sharon Schneeberger. I have signed and been a volunteer on multiple ballot initiative campaigns throughout the years. Having a ballot initiative process accessible to Missouri citizens is very important to our state. Also, it is important to our democracy that citizens can express themselves on issues that influence their daily lives. As a Missouri voter, I have exercised the right that was passed down to me from previous generations of Missourians. It is a critical part of our democratic toolkit. If this legislation passes, future generations will not have the same rights that I now have. Please do not permanently alter our constitution and deprive future citizens of the rights we all currently appreciate. I respectfully request that you vote no.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: SPENCER TODER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: spencer.toder@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2025 9:20 PM

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

The specific purpose of a ballot initiative is to provide an opportunity for direct democracy to be utilized to represent the interest of the people when elected officials do not. This can be to due to differing priorities or interests, or because there just isn't agreement among the legislative body. To take that right away is to take away the voice of the people, an unacceptable action to be unilaterally taken by a legislative body. If there is policy you want to pass because you think it will better the lives of constituents, great, you have the ability to democratically use your positions to pass that legislation, but to make it harder for the electorate to participate in direct democracy is antidemocratic and a misuse of power entrusted to you. We deserve a voice, and by silencing ours, it becomes painfully clear that democracy is not your goal-power is. I implore you: do not take away our voice.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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 ELIZABETH MAYERS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: semayers431@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 1:07 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am opposed to the Missouri Republicans taking away our freedoms and rights that we have, specifically in regards to Initiative petitions. I ask you to vote NO on HB 551 and HB 575



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: 2/2/2025 8:27 PM

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Absolutely not. Sore losers do not get to revise the rules to benefit themselves. The people voted for what they want and need: Reproductive freedom, a livable wage, and earned sick leave. When writing legislation, let the state motto be your guide: Salus Populi Suprema Lex Esto.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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 HOISINGTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: susanhoisington@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 6:22 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

HB 551 is an an attempt to end majority rule in Missouri and take away our rights. By changing the rules for constitutional amendments, politicians are wanting to alter the rules so a small minority of Missourians can veto any statewide proposal. Majority rule has been the law in Missouri for over 100 years. The initiative petition process gives Missourians the freedom to make decisions about policies that will impact them and their families. The IP process provides Missourians a direct path to participate in our democracy. The process is an essential part of Missouri's democracy.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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 WILCOX		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: swilcox1962@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 9:42 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Petition records should be open and available to all not closed.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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 HALLMARK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: MzBamahallmark@outlook.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 5:55 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: TAYLOR FULLER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: tamsden642@icloud.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2025 9:41 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This would be detrimental to our state.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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: TERESA DANIELEY		PHONE NUMBER: 314-503-7415	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI; MO JOBS WITH JUSTICE		TITLE: MISSIONER FOR PUBLIC ADVOCACY, EPISCOPAL DIOCESE O	
ADDRESS: 3887 WYOMING STREET			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63116
EMAIL: publicadvocacy@diocesemo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 12:45 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

**Do not mess with the Initiative Petition Process. To do would make Missouri even more undemocratic.
We have used the Initiative Petition Process for over 100 years. Stop it.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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 PENROSE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: teresapenrose1@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 9:48 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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: TWILA J LOY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: twilaloy@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2025 6:31 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This bill will strip Missouri citizens of our right to majority rule.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA BELL		PHONE NUMBER: 573-680-9032	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SECRETARY OF STATE		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: amanda.bell@sos.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 5:23 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Consistency of petition signature page form creates the efficiency:1. Use for the petition database2. Analyzing signatures with the signature on the left margin 3. Creates more space to gather written information from petition signer for the information to be legible4. Parameters on the page is set up to allow the system to determine the number of signatures submittedPayment per signature encourages forged signatures:1. 2022 IP cycle – 2.43% wrong signatures (voter was registered but the signature did not match)2. 2024 IP cycle – almost 2% wrong signatures (voter was registered but the signature did not matchDark ink allows for a clear scan. If other colors are used and it does not scan properly we have to pull the original page and take other steps necessary to create a page that is more legible.Signatures on petition pages should be confidential to be consistent with voter record public information. Additionally, there are other reports available through the petition database that can be used to monitor progress and annotation of petition pages and lines if they are registered voters or not registered voters. The reports will give voter id #, address and voter name is the petition signer is a registered voter.Removal of committee (116.153 RSMo) the question will be certified to ballot regardless of committee hearing, committee did not meet per 116.153 RSMo in 2024 election cycle.Possible edit: Petitions submitted for circulation should stop at EIGHT months instead of SIX months prior to the November General election. This is consistent with saving resources and time of SOS, AG and Auditor’s office when a petition will not make it through a time consuming process in enough time to be approved for circulation to gather signatures before the deadline to submit a petition with signatures.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 551		DATE: 2/4/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAMELA K. GROW, M.D.		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: pamelagrowmd@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 6:47 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I'm a former county clerk, having served two terms as the Phelps County Clerk from 2015-2022, inclusive. By my reading, these two bills are identical; so my comments apply to both bills. The petition circulators are required, as found in RSMo 116.080 at the upper third of page 6 of the bills, to be a "...resident of this state or physically present in this state for at least thirty consecutive days prior to..." collecting signatures. As local election authority, I faced numerous situations in which residency was a central issue, whether as a qualification for voting or a determinant of eligibility for candidacy. The challenges to voter or candidate eligibility seemed never to have a resolution. There is no definition in state law of "residency." Oh, of course, you can search RSMo for "definition" and "residence" and come up with numerous statutes, but most of them only incidentally mention residence and are not defining what the word means in the laws. Laws that cannot be enforced are demoralizing, in my opinion. I think we need a framework that permits a very precise definition of a person's residence. Currently, I don't believe it exists in statute.