



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 575</b>		DATE: <b>2/4/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BYRON KEELIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-402-0655</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>FREEDOM PRINCIPLE MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 2</b>			
CITY: <b>BALLWIN</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63022</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARK FIEGENBAUM</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-690-8580</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI FARM BUREAU</b>		TITLE: <b>ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF STATE AND LOCAL AFFAIRS</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>701 S. COUNTRY CLUB DR.</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL: <b>mark.fiegenbaum@mofb.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 5:35 AM</b>	

**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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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SAMUEL H. LEE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-368-4242</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>CAMPAIGN LIFE MISSOURI</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>P.O. BOX 142585</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63114</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>AMELIA FREEBERG</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>afreeberg@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 11:21 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**As a citizen of Missouri, I am deeply concerned about HB 575 taking away my voice in the democratic process. I urge you to vote "no" on HB 575 to protect Missourians' right to a fair and accessible petition process.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>AMY HAMMERMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-494-5410</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN ST. LOUIS</b>		TITLE: <b>STATE POLICY ADVOCATE</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>295 N. LINDBERGH BLVD.</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63141</b>
EMAIL: <b>akuo.hammerman@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 8:03 AM</b>

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

**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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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>AMY VENTURELLA</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>amyventurella@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2025 7:44 PM</b>

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

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

**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.**





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ANNALISA DEATON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>annalisa_deaton@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2025 10:58 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

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

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 laws 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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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C.HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 11:32 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

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

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



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>BEVIN EARLY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>bfearly@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 8:29 PM</b>
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I oppose



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRITTANY KIEFER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>brittany.kiefer@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 4:38 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

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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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CARA MENGWASSER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>hrhcaram@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2025 11:16 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**Vote NO! This will end majority rule which has been in place for decades. A small minority of people should not control.**





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

**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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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CAROL A. SCHREIBER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>carolschrei@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 2:05 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

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

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

Cindy Montoya835 S. EastridgeNixa, MO 65714cindymontoya23@gmail.comFeb. 2, 2025Dear Members of the Elections Committee,I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 551 and HB 575, which I understand will be discussed in the upcoming committee hearing on February 4. These bills represent a significant departure from the democratic principles that have governed Missouri for over a century and threaten to undermine the voice of the majority.For more than 100 years, Missouri has upheld the principle of majority rule—a foundational aspect of our democracy that ensures all citizens have a say in the decisions that affect their lives. The initiative petition process has allowed citizens to directly influence legislation on critical issues, from the establishment of our highways to the legalization of marijuana and the expansion of Medicaid. These measures reflect the will of the people and have led to meaningful progress in our state.The proposed bills, HB 551 and HB 575, would shift power away from the majority and enable a small minority of Missourians to veto statewide proposals. This is not only undemocratic but also detrimental to the progress we have made as a state. By allowing a minority to dictate the terms of governance, these bills jeopardize the very essence of our democratic process and threaten the rights and freedoms that Missourians have fought so hard to secure.I urge you to consider the implications of these bills seriously. Stripping away majority rule undermines the trust that citizens place in their government and erodes the progress that has been made through direct democracy. It is imperative that we preserve the rights of the majority to decide on important issues affecting our communities.Please vote NO on HB 551 and HB 575. Let us uphold the democratic principles that have served Missouri well and continue to empower the voices of all citizens.Thank you for your attention to this important matter.Sincerely,Cindy Montoya



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 575</b>		DATE: <b>2/4/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>COLLEEN TEPEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>colleentepen81@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2025 3:47 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

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.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CONNOR LUEBBERT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-291-2463</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>227 JEFFERSON STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 575</b>		DATE: <b>2/4/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CYNTHIA MAHER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>bfdaddy1981@icloud.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2025 3:20 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

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.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CYNTHIA MUELLER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>cndymllr@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 1:15 PM</b>

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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!**





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DANAI RINACKE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>traumajnke@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2025 9:02 PM</b>

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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.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>DEBORAH SEXTON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>debbies573@hotmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 12:03 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**Vote no on HB 575. Missourians are smart enough to vote and deserves to have our votes matter.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>DENISE BERETTA</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>richwaitress2003@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2025 11:51 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**This is a Democracy! Let's keep it that way!**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DENISE LIEBERMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-780-1833</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR &amp; GENERAL COUNSEL</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>6047 WATERMAN BLVD.</b>			
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63112</b>
EMAIL: <b>denise@movpc.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 5:58 PM</b>	

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

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: <b>HB 575</b>		DATE: <b>2/4/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DIANE G YEAMANS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>dyeamans98@yahoo.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 12:11 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Please respect Missouri voters. The petition initiative has served Missouri well for many decades. I oppose any changes.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>DIANE LUECKE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>dluecke5@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 12:39 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

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. 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  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DIANE MARIE MEEKER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-234-0342</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN; COLUMBIA AREA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>109 N KEENE ST</b>			
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65201</b>
EMAIL: <b>columbiamonow@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2025 6:29 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

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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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>DON CROZIER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>doncrozier@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/31/2025 3:46 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**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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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DYLAN VOSS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>dylanvoss92@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 11:15 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Many citizens already find it hard to keep track of what "official" stage of development a new law is in. Disqualifying ballots with signatures just because they are submitted at the wrong stage will force a doubling-back of labor and outreach, and this will only increase the proliferation of misinformation.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>EA FRANKLIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>eafrank711@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 7:45 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

My name is Elizabeth Franklin, Plattsburg MO and I am submitting the following in strong opposition to HB 575. I am disappointed at the lack of understanding and inclusiveness demonstrated in this bill. This bill excludes recently-arrived military members and their 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 and utilities. My strong recommendation is to remove the 30-day residency and remove pay-per-signature restrictions. It's especially uncaring to even consider these restrictions for those who serve our country and may want to serve in MO if the 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.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ELISA NEILSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>ekatwell@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 8:47 AM</b>

**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 Missourians a voice. One vote=One Voice!



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ELIZABETH WERTZ</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>elizabethwertz220@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 9:02 PM</b>

**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.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 575</b>		DATE: <b>2/4/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>EMILY A. HORNSTRA</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>emlife@att.net</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 11:37 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 575</b>		DATE: <b>2/4/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>FREDA LAVON HOLLEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>1lessntx@sbcglobal.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2025 12:36 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**Vote NO on this bill.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>GETTA R. HALL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>getta_hall@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 6:23 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

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  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>GLEND A KUSTER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>glendakuster@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2025 11:29 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**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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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>HOLLY BERNSTEIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>holly.e.bernstein@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 12:49 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

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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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>HOLLY EVANS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>hollyrevans@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 1:52 PM</b>

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

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.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JACQUELINE FARR</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>farrduo@outlook.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 9:26 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

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  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JAMIE SZABO</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jamieszabo04@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/1/2025 9:11 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

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  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JANICE MCLUCKIE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>urbanmoon44@aim.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 7:59 AM</b>

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

**This bill curtails citizen involvement in the democratic process instead of extending and encouraging it. It is intended to silence our voices and diminish our power - antithetical to our system of government.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEFFREY LUCY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jefflucy58@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 7:00 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JENNIFER L TRACY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jtracy1203@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 1:29 PM</b>

**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  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JESSICA TROUT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jtroutfsm09@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 10:12 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

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  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JILL ANDERSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jillyfitz@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 10:07 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**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  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JOAN GENTRY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>joangentry2012@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 3:33 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I am opposed to HB 575."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  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JONATHAN HUNN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jonwillhunn@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 10:38 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**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  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JUDITH A CAMPBELL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jacampbell314@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 3:23 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I prefer the current, the true democratic, version that has worked for years. I oppose HB 575 and urge you to vote NO.Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JULIE FRANCOIS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>julieafrancois@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/1/2025 9:11 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**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  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JULIE GAEBE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>juliegaebe@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 8:54 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Initiative petitions and referendums give voice to citizens after a rigorous petition gathering process. A simple majority then is allowed to vote on the measures just as a simple majority determines election results. They have worked for issues from both sides of the aisle. They must be protected as the purest form of citizen voice in our endangered democracy.





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>KAREN ANDERSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>anderson.karen@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 4:19 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**HB 575 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: <b>HB 575</b>		DATE: <b>2/4/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>KATHERINE BROWN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>kheimannbrown@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2025 8:54 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Vote no



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>KATHIE ALLISON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>katiea@planetkc.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 7:31 AM</b>

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

**the initiation process is central to the basic rights of a Missouri citizen. The bill attempts to change those rights**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>KATHY J MARINCEL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>kmarincel@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2025 7:13 PM</b>

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

mposes 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  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KATIE HILDEBRAND</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>katieleehildebrand@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 11:38 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>KAY PARK</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>kaypark122@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 8:41 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

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**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KELLI DOYLE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>kkpsoccer@aol.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2025 10:25 PM</b>

**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  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>KENETHA WEIDMAIER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>ksweid@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/1/2025 8:51 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Majority rule has been the law for over 100 years. We do not want or need a small minority making our decisions. I would hold to this opinion no matter what political party was in the majority. Please honor the voters of our great state and vote no.





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KIM WINTERTON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>kimijo23kw@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 3:43 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

mo



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>KIMBERLY BOSTIC</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>bosticrobertd@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2025 3:00 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**I want the state of Missouri to retain the current voting standards of majority voting and minority! Do not allow this to change!!!**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>KIMBERLY MAY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>hokiemule@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2025 4:55 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**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  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KORTNIE HUDDLESTON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>kortniehuddleston@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 10:11 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**HB 575 (Banderman) 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 575’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 575’s residency and citizenship requirements would bar many from engaging in political speech, undermining democratic participation and the free exchange of ideas. HB 575’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 575 undermines this fundamental right. For these reasons, we urge a vote against HB 575 to protect free speech and democratic participation.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>LAURA S ENGLAND</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>lengland79@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 2:28 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I do NOT support HB 575 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  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LAURALEE GARSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-889-4582</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>RASHOMONUSA</b>		TITLE: <b>CEO</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>2241 E. WASHITA ST.</b>			
CITY: <b>SPRINGFIELD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65804</b>
EMAIL: <b>lauraleegarson@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/1/2025 9:14 PM</b>	

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

**Vote no on HB 575. Majority keeps democracy. Keep democracy for your constituents and future generations.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>LINDA PHILLIPS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>lillindap@sbcglobal.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2025 8:00 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

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  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>LISA WARD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>lisaward1962@sbcglobal.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 12:48 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

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





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>LOIS ARCONATI</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arconmom@sbcglobal.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 2:37 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Please do not make the IP process any more difficult than it already is. Too many times the people vote on an issue and then the legislators disregard our voice!! This must end. The citizens voted to end puppy mills in Missouri and the gop overturned that vote and now Missouri has the largest number of puppy mills out of all 50 states. This is so wrong, so UNDEMOCRATIC ! All of the petitions that I have taken around the state were on forms approved by the office of the SOS and by the MO Supreme court. This HB 575 is so wrong



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MAGGIE OLIVIA EDMONDSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: <b>ABORTION ACTION MISSOURI</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>1210 S VANDEVENTER AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63110</b>
EMAIL: <b>maggie@abortionactionmissouri.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 11:27 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MAHREE SKALA</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>skalamahree@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 11:34 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

HB575 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  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARCEL HAGENS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-299-8753</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>ACTION ST. LOUIS POWER PROJECT</b>		TITLE: <b>POLICY COORDINATOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>4138 NORTH GRAND</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63107</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARCIA L, CRANDALL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>marcielynnsmail@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 12:14 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**I strongly oppose this bill. It is undemocratic.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARILYN MCLEOD</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-239-3708</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT</b>
ADDRESS: <b>8706 MANCHESTER RD., SUITE 104</b>		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63144</b>
EMAIL: <b>marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 2:39 PM</b>

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

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  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARSHA LERENBERG</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>marsha.lerenberg@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 12:17 PM</b>
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I strongly urge committee members to reject HB 575 and vote no. HB 575 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 575.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 575</b>		DATE: <b>2/4/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARY LOU TOFT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>revtumc@hotmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 10:30 PM</b>
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MELANIE D BUSSE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>melbusse7@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 12:53 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

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 appearing and speaking in opposition to this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MELISSA VATTEROTT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-581-0561</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND STRATEGY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>725 KINGSLAND AVE SUITE 100</b>			
CITY: <b>UNIVERSITY CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63130</b>
EMAIL: <b>mvatterott@moenvironment.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 11:50 AM</b>	

**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  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MELISSA VATTEROTT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-727-0600</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND STRATEGY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>725 KINGSLAND AVENUE, SUITE 100</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63130</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL DREYER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mdreyer93@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 10:09 PM</b>	
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**HB 575 (Banderman) 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 575’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 575’s residency and citizenship requirements would bar many from engaging in political speech, undermining democratic participation and the free exchange of ideas. HB 575’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 575 undermines this fundamental right. For these reasons, we urge a vote against HB 575 to protect free speech and democratic participation.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>NANCY GOTH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>ngoth02@hotmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 8:34 AM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**  
Leave our Constitution & Constitutional Right as is.It's hard enough now.Moleg should Respect Voters.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>NANCY S. KASSABAUM</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>nkassabaum@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2025 8:21 PM</b>
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Responsible Government should be responsive to the will of the People.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>NANCY SACCONI</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>nisaccione@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 10:51 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I am a Missouri constituent and voter and I strongly oppose HB 575 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 575 and its goal of making the initiative petition process harder and more burdensome.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>NATHAN J. MADDEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-393-0105</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>HEALTH FORWARD FOUNDATION</b>		TITLE: <b>POLICY IMPACT STRATEGIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>2300 MAIN STREET, STE. 304</b>			
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64108</b>
EMAIL: <b>nmadden@healthforward.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 2:51 PM</b>	

**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](mailto:nmadden@healthforward.org) Respectfully, Nathan J. Madden, Ph.D. Impact Strategist - Policy Health Forward Foundation





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>NEVA SPRUNG</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>sprungn@att.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 12:27 PM</b>
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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



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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>PAIGE STOVER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>paigens@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 9:06 PM</b>
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**The will of Missouri voters should be respected by the legislature. Continuing to place barriers between Missourians and our constitutional rights is not in the best interests of the state or the legislature. The reality is that Missourians are independent minded and will not always vote the way the legislature wants - and that is a good thing. It is the foundation of our democracy.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>PATRICIA BARROWS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>pabaway@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 10:34 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**Vote no, stop trying to make it more difficult to vote.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>PATRICIA JONES</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>bartolaccipj@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 10:55 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

My name is Patricia Jones, and I live in St. Louis, MO. I oppose HB575 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.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>PATRICIA M OROARK</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>poroark@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 2:16 PM</b>	

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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. 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.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>RAYMOND L JAMES</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>raymondjames552@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 10:31 PM</b>
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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.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>REBEKAH BERKOWITZ</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>rebek_b@sbcglobal.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 3:34 PM</b>
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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  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>RICHARD WISKUS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>richardwiskus@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 4:05 PM</b>

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**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 sate and federal constitutions**





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BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 575</b>		DATE: <b>2/4/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RIVA E CAPELLARI</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>rivacapellari@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 12:32 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 575</b>		DATE: <b>2/4/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ROBYN CROSBY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>crosbyr001@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 9:02 AM</b>

**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: <b>HB 575</b>		DATE: <b>2/4/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>RON BERRY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>660-537-2239</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>JOBS WITH JUSTICE VOTER ACTION</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>P.O. BOX 722</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 12:00 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 575</b>		DATE: <b>2/4/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>RUTH MILLEDGE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>rmille2000@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 3:20 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

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: <b>HB 575</b>		DATE: <b>2/4/2025</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SAMANTHA ROHAUS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>sammyr@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2025 11:21 AM</b>

**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 575.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH A. SWISHER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>salswisher@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2025 12:13 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

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**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH FELTS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>sarah.felts@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 1:27 PM</b>

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

**HB 575 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**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SCOTT MCMASTERS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>scotty.mcm93@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/31/2025 10:21 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**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: <b>HB 575</b>		DATE: <b>2/4/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SHARON SCHNEEBERGER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>sharon@schneeberger.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 4:19 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

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**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SPENCER TODER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>spencer.toder@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/1/2025 9:20 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

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**

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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SUSAN ELIZABETH MAYERS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>semayers431@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 1:07 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

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**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SUSAN GIBSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Onesuegibson@protonmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2025 8:27 PM</b>

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

**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**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SUSAN HOISINGTON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>susanhoisington@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 6:22 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

HB 575 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  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SUSAN KETURAH SCHMALZBAUER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>susanschmalzbauer@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 1:39 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Dear Committee members, I am a United Methodist pastor and have participated in the petition-gathering process. I am writing to voice my objection to HB 575 and HB551 It infringes on our freedom of speech. It excludes non-voters from participating in critical issues facing their communities through the initiative process, infringing on their freedom of expression and association.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SUSAN WILCOX</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>swilcox1962@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 9:42 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

The petitions need to be open records.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>TARA HALLMARK</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>MzBamahallmark@outlook.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/4/2025 5:55 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>TAYLOR FULLER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>tamsden642@icloud.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/2/2025 9:41 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

This would be detrimental to our state.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>TERESA DANIELEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-503-7415</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI; MO JOBS WITH JUSTICE</b>		TITLE: <b>MISSIONER FOR PUBLIC ADVOCACY, EPISCOPAL DIOCESE O</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>3887 WYOMING STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63116</b>
EMAIL: <b>publicadvocacy@diocesemo.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 12:45 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**Do not mess with the Initiative Petition Process. To do so 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**

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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>TERESA PENROSE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>teresapenrose1@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 9:48 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>TWILA J LOY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>twilaloy@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/31/2025 6:31 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

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





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Elections</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>PAMELA K. GROW, M.D.</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>pamelagrowmd@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/3/2025 6:47 PM</b>

**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.