

SECOND EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**HOUSE JOINT
RESOLUTION NO. 3**

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS.

3353H.02I

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

JOINT RESOLUTION

Submitting to the qualified voters of Missouri an amendment to Article III of the Constitution of Missouri, by adopting one new section relating to ballot measures, with penalty provisions.

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring therein:

That at the next general election to be held in the state of Missouri, on Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2026, or at a special election to be called by the governor for that purpose, there is hereby submitted to the qualified voters of this state, for adoption or rejection, the following amendment to Article III of the Constitution of the state of Missouri:

Section A. Article III, Constitution of Missouri, is amended by adopting one new section, to be known as Section 54, to read as follows:

Section 54. 1. This section shall be known as the "Protect Missouri Voters" amendment.

2. (1) No political committee that makes expenditures or contributions in support of or in opposition to a statewide ballot measure placed on the ballot by initiative petition or by legislative referral shall knowingly or willfully receive, solicit, or accept, whether directly or indirectly, contributions from a foreign adversary of the United States. No foreign adversary of the United States shall make any contribution or

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

8 expenditure in support of or in opposition to a statewide ballot measure. For purposes
9 of this section, a foreign adversary of the United States shall be defined as:

10 (a) Any national, provincial, or local government or any entity that is directly or
11 indirectly controlled or owned by a government or that directly or indirectly controls a
12 government or a political party of a foreign country designated as a foreign adversary
13 by the United States Secretary of State from the time such designation is published in
14 the Federal Register until revoked; or

15 (b) Any corporation formed under the laws of a government in a foreign country
16 meeting the requirements of paragraph (a), or any individual who is a citizen of a
17 foreign country meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) and who is not a United
18 States citizen or lawful permanent resident.

19 (2) Any violation of this subsection is a class A misdemeanor and the attorney
20 general shall have exclusive criminal jurisdiction.

21 (3) The general assembly may by law:

22 (a) Enact further restrictions to implement this subsection;

23 (b) Enact restrictions on foreign support for or opposition to Missouri ballot
24 measures;

25 (c) Enact reporting requirements regarding foreign support for persons or
26 committees that oppose or support ballot measures; and

27 (d) Provide for the investigation and enforcement of the provisions of any such
28 enactments, or of this subsection including, but not limited to, criminal penalties or civil
29 remedies.

30 3. (1) Any person who commits any of the following acts with respect to a
31 petition on a statewide ballot measure is guilty of the crime of petition signature fraud:

32 (a) Signs any name other than his or her own to any petition, or who knowingly
33 signs his or her name more than once for the same measure for the same election, or
34 who knows he or she is not at the time of signing or circulating the same a Missouri
35 registered voter and a resident of this state;

36 (b) Intentionally submits petition signature sheets with the knowledge that the
37 person whose name appears on the signature sheet did not actually sign the petition;

38 (c) Causes a voter to sign a petition other than the one the voter intended to sign;

39 (d) Forges or falsifies signatures; or

40 (e) Knowingly accepts or offers money or anything of value to another person in
41 exchange for a signature on a petition.

42 (2) Any person who knowingly causes a petition circulator's signatures to be
43 submitted for counting, and who either knows that such circulator has violated
44 subsection 1 of this section or, after receiving notice of facts indicating that such person

45 may have violated subsection 1 of this section, causes the signatures to be submitted with
46 reckless indifference as to whether such circulator has complied with subsection 1 of this
47 section, shall also be deemed to have committed the crime of petition signature fraud.

48 (3) The crime of petition signature fraud shall be a class A misdemeanor and
49 shall carry penalties as may be provided by law. The attorney general shall have
50 exclusive criminal jurisdiction to prosecute under this section.

51 4. At a reasonable time and place after an initiative petition proponent files a
52 sample petition and before the official ballot title is certified, the secretary of state or the
53 secretary's designee shall conduct one or more in-person or web-based hearings to
54 receive public comment regarding the purpose and effect of the proposed measure.
55 Transcripts or summaries of the hearings shall be made available to the public no later
56 than seven days after the official ballot title is approved.

57 5. Notwithstanding Sections 51 and 52(b) of this article and Article XII, Section 2
58 (b) of this constitution, statewide ballot measures proposed by the initiative are
59 approved only if affirmative votes are cast by a majority of voters in each congressional
60 district in effect at the time of the vote, notwithstanding any other provision of this
61 constitution to the contrary.

62 6. The full text of any statewide ballot measure proposed by the initiative shall
63 be made available to each individual voter, either legibly printed on paper or in digital
64 format, at the time a ballot is made available to the voter for voting. This requirement is
65 in addition to, and does not replace, all other printings and displays of the full text and
66 the ballot title required under this constitution or by law.

67 7. The provisions of this section are self-executing. All of the provisions of this
68 section are severable. If any provision of this section is found by a court of competent
69 jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or unconstitutionally enacted, the remaining
70 provisions of this section shall be and remain valid.

Section B. Pursuant to chapter 116, and other applicable constitutional provisions and
2 laws of this state allowing the general assembly to adopt ballot language for the submission of
3 this joint resolution to the voters of this state, the official summary statement of this
4 resolution shall be as follows:

5 "Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- 6 • Prevent foreign adversaries of the United States from influencing ballot measure
7 elections, and allow criminal prosecution of foreign adversaries who violate this restriction;
8 • Punish initiative petition signature fraud as a crime;
9 • Require state officials to get public comment in public hearings before initiative
10 petitions are circulated to Missouri voters;

- 11 • Require that statewide initiative petitions be approved by a majority of voters in
12 each congressional district; and
13 • Provide each voter the full text of initiative petitions with their ballot?".

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