

HJR 3 -- RELATING TO BALLOT MEASURES

SPONSOR: Lewis

Upon voter approval, this constitutional amendment establishes the "Protect Missouri Voters" amendment.

This constitutional amendment would prohibit political committees that make expenditures relating to a Statewide ballot measure placed on the ballot by initiative petition or legislative referral from knowingly receiving, soliciting, or accepting contributions from a foreign adversary of the United States, as that phrase is defined in the amendment. A foreign adversary of the United States would be prohibited under this amendment from making any contribution in support of or opposition to a Statewide ballot measure. Any violation of this provision would be a class A misdemeanor, with the Attorney General given exclusive criminal jurisdiction.

This constitutional amendment would permit the General Assembly to enact further restrictions relating to these provisions, enact restrictions on foreign support or opposition to Statewide ballot measures, enact reporting requirements relating to foreign support for persons or committees in support of or opposition to ballot measures, and provide for the investigation and enforcement of such provisions.

Any person who commits certain acts specified in the constitutional amendment would be guilty of the crime of petition signature fraud; this crime would be a class A misdemeanor and carries penalties as may be provided by law, with the Attorney General given exclusive criminal jurisdiction to prosecute.

This constitutional amendment would require the Secretary of State or a designee thereof, at a reasonable time and place after an initiative petition proponent files a sample petition but before the ballot title is certified, to conduct at least one in-person or web-based hearing to receive public comment regarding the purpose and effect of the initiative petition. Transcripts or summaries of the hearings must be made available to the public no more than seven days after the approval of the official ballot title.

This constitutional amendment would require any Statewide ballot measure proposed by initiative petition to receive a majority of affirmative votes in each congressional district in order to go into effect.

This constitutional amendment would require the full text of any Statewide ballot measure proposed by initiative petition to be made

available to each voter at the time a ballot is made available to the voter for voting.

The provisions of this constitutional amendment are self-executing, and all provisions of this constitutional amendment are severable.