



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1987		DATE: 2/24/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ANDREA CUNNINGHAM		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 12:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As a member of MoCCFOA, I fully support this amendment. My office assists the Cass County Clerk, the local election authority, with declarations of candidacy. Since the filing period has been shortened, the end-of-year holidays now significantly impact the timeline. For the April 2024 election, the final day to file was December 26, 2023, which is a city holiday. I was in the office that day, but the building was otherwise empty and no candidates appeared to file. It is only a matter of time before the final filing day falls on Christmas Day. For these reasons, I strongly support the added clarity regarding procedures when the last day to file falls on a holiday.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1987		DATE: 2/24/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. A.C. "HONEST ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1535			
CITY: O'FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1987		DATE: 2/24/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BYRON KEELIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-402-0655	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 2			
CITY: BALLWIN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63022
EMAIL: freedomprinciplemo@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 7:03 AM	

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

The Freedom Principle is writing in support of House Bill 1987, which thoughtfully updates the deadlines for candidate filings and addresses conflicts with state and federal holidays, creating a more efficient, accessible, and predictable election timeline. These reforms will help prevent confusion for both candidates and election officials and ensure timely public notification of all election-related dates.

While these improvements are commendable, we respectfully urge the committee to further enhance the bill by including an amendment that requires all candidates for any local election—including municipal, school board, and special district races—to file their candidacy with the County Clerk’s office. Centralizing the filing process at the County Clerk’s office will promote transparency, strengthen public trust, and safeguard the integrity of our elections. It will also ensure that candidate information is consistently managed, easy for the public to access, and properly maintained within a single accountable office. Such a measure will prevent duplication and confusion that may arise when filings are handled by multiple entities and will facilitate more efficient oversight by election authorities.

These changes together would represent an important step toward modernizing our electoral process and protecting public confidence in local elections. Thank you for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1987		DATE: 2/24/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: CARLA AYALA		PHONE NUMBER: 636-528-4712
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CITY OF TROY		TITLE: CITY CLERK
ADDRESS: 800 CAP AU GRIS		
CITY: TROY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63379
EMAIL: carla@cityoftroymissouri.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 1:03 PM

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

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

As a City Clerk in Missouri, I support HB 1987 because it provides a practical and reasonable adjustment to the candidate filing timeline for political subdivisions. Moving the filing period one week later maintains adequate time for ballot certification and coordination with county election authorities, while improving overall election administration efficiency. The provision clarifying that the deadline moves to the next business day if it falls on a State or Federal holiday is especially important, as it eliminates confusion for both candidates and clerks. HB 1987 offers a modest but meaningful improvement to statutory clarity and administration. I respectfully ask for a "Do Pass" recommendation.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1987		DATE: 2/24/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRIS ROEPE		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: MO ASSOC OF COUNTY CLERKS & ELECTION AUTHORITIES		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 205 E. CAPITOL AVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1987		DATE: 2/24/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: COLIN KINKADE		PHONE NUMBER: 314-660-5558	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF METRO ST. LOUIS		TITLE: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 11911 DORSETT RD			
CITY: MARYLAND HEIGHTS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63043
EMAIL: ckinkade@stlmuni.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 5:00 PM	

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

The Municipal League of Metro St. Louis, our member municipalities, and especially our city clerks support HB 1987 to avoid the candidate filing deadline falling on any state or federal holidays.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1987		DATE: 2/24/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: COLLEEN LOHBECK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 2:12 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I fully support moving the deadline for filing of declarations of candidacy to avoid interfering with important family holidays.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1987		DATE: 2/24/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: DEBORAH RYAN		PHONE NUMBER: 636-755-5353
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CITY OF DARDENNE PRAIRIE		TITLE: CITY CLERK
ADDRESS: 2032 HANLEY ROAD		
CITY: DARDENNE PRAIRIE		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63368
EMAIL: Debbie.Ryan@DardennePrairie.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 4:35 PM

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

Chair Reedy, Vice Chair McGaugh, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1987.

HB 1987 makes a modest but important adjustment to Missouri's candidate filing timeline by shifting the filing period slightly earlier for political subdivisions and special districts that do not already have a specified deadline in statute or charter.

This change also ensure safety of not requiring a single employee, usually a female, to open a building, working alone on a holiday when the building such as City Hall or a School District would normally be closed. The current requirement would force employees to work on observed holidays.

HB 1987 is a practical refinement that strengthens transparency, improves administrative efficiency, and supports orderly elections without limiting access to the ballot without falling on federal holidays.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to give House Bill 1987 a do-pass recommendation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1987		DATE: 2/24/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMIE LOGAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 4:54 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Please consider changing the candidacy filing dates. As a person who receives the election candidate filings, I do not want to be here on a major federal holiday sitting and waiting for someone to come in or not come in to file when I should be with my family. No one wants to do this. Please move the filing date to the next business day when it lands on a major holiday.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1987		DATE: 2/24/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: NANCY COPENHAVER		PHONE NUMBER: 660-263-5725
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI		TITLE: VICE PRESIDENT, LWVMO
ADDRESS: 1512 RIDGELINE DRIVE		
CITY: MOBERLY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65270
EMAIL: copenhaver22@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 9:24 AM

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

The League of Women Voters of Missouri is in support of HB 1987 which changes the deadline for filing candidacy slightly. The problems that have arisen in recent years, and would continue to be a problem with offices closed during the end of the filing period for holidays would be alleviated with this bill. League urges the committee to pass this important fix to a problem which could be confusing or problematic for people willing to file for the important local offices like school board and city councils. This is a partial fix as there are still problems with school district offices in some districts being closed a number of days during the filing period. Hopefully a fix can be made for this in the future.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1987		DATE: 2/24/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: NIKKI STRONG		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-4876	
REPRESENTING: CITY OF ST. PETERS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 213 E. CAPITOL AVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1987		DATE: 2/24/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RICHARD SHEETS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-9134	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI MUNICIPAL LEAGUE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1727 SOUTHRIDGE DR.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1987		DATE: 2/24/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: TINA DIDRECKSON		PHONE NUMBER: 417-723-8305	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CITY OF CRANE		TITLE: CITY CLERK	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 17			
CITY: CRANE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65633
EMAIL: city.clerk@crane-mo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 3:52 PM	

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

This clarification and shortening of the candidacy time frame is very important for small Municipal staffs. Please vote to pass this.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1987		DATE: 2/24/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TRAVIS HEINS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 8:09 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I support this bill. I believe ultimately the best solution would be to move municipal elections to the fall, but this bill does make a much needed correction for winter candidate filing.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1987		DATE: 2/24/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DENA HODGES		PHONE NUMBER: 660-332-7166	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CITY OF LA PLATA		TITLE: CITY CLERK	
ADDRESS: 113 SOUTH GEX STREET			
CITY: LA PLATA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63549
EMAIL: laplatacityclerk@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 2:17 PM	

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

On behalf of the Board of Aldermen for the City of La Plata we are opposed to moving our April elections. Being a small town of 1300 we feel any issues we put on the ballot will become overlooked when voters are voting on issues that are on the November elections. We respectfully ask that you vote NO on this bill. We have formally submitted a city resolution opposing this to Senator/President Pro Tem Cindy O'Laughlin.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1987		DATE: 2/24/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 9:04 AM	

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

This bill moves the default filing window for political subdivision and special district offices one week earlier — from the seventeenth to the sixteenth Tuesday for opening, and from the fourteenth to the thirteenth Tuesday for closing.

While facially minor, this change has practical ballot-access consequences.

First, ballot-access restrictions are evaluated under the Anderson–Burdick framework. Even modest deadline shifts can burden late-emerging candidates, particularly in small political subdivisions where offices attract limited attention and filing periods are already short.

Second, the bill advances the filing deadline without demonstrating a corresponding administrative necessity. Election authorities already operate under established certification timelines. The measure does not identify a problem requiring earlier candidate closure.

Third, small political subdivisions and special districts often rely on informal community engagement to recruit candidates. Advancing deadlines narrows opportunity without expanding notice requirements or voter access benefits.

When altering ballot-access timelines, the legislature should demonstrate a concrete administrative need, show narrow tailoring, and assess cumulative burden — especially in low-information local elections.

HB 1987 makes a structural change without establishing necessity.

For these reasons, I respectfully oppose the bill.

Legislative Notice:

The General Assembly is on notice that modifications to candidate filing deadlines implicate constitutional ballot-access protections under the First and Fourteenth Amendments. Absent a demonstrated administrative necessity, advancing filing deadlines may create avoidable vote-burden and equal-protection challenges.