



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2387		DATE: 2/3/2026	
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: ABIGAIL HERNDON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 9:52 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRIS JOHNS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 9:32 AM	

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If we are state that believes in rehabilitation and mercy, these community members have done their time and paid their taxes. We should restore their dignity and help in their rehabilitation by giving back their rights. Thank you for voting yes.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DENISE LIEBERMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-780-1833	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION		TITLE: DIRECTOR & GENERAL COUNSEL	
ADDRESS: 6047 WATERMAN BLVD			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63112
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: EA FRANKLIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 10:08 AM	
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I “partially” support HB 2387. I do not concur with reducing any voting period which appears to occur with this bill (reducing absentee voting to three weeks). I would encourage no-excuse voting to be extended to four weeks and keep the six-week absentee voting in place. The reason I will provide partial support is for the presidential primary provisions. Seems odd to want more involvement with a primary system yet this bill cuts the timeframe for voters to actually cast their ballot. I’d encourage all provisions of this bill to be more inclusive.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: JEN BERNSTEIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-277-9080
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN ST. LOUIS		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 311 NORTH LINDBERGH BLVD.		
CITY: ST. LOUIS	STATE: MO	ZIP: 63141
EMAIL: jbernstein@ncjwstl.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 9:20 AM

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Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support House Bill 387. My name is Jen Bernstein and I am the Advocacy Director at National Council of Jewish Women 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.

NCJWSTL supports bills to restore Missouri’s presidential preference primary and expand opportunities for voter participation. A presidential primary gives voters a clear, accessible way to make their voices heard in one of the most consequential decisions in our democracy. Eliminating this process has created unnecessary barriers and confusion, while reducing turnout and engagement. Restoring it strengthens transparency, increases participation, and ensures that Missouri voters are not sidelined in the national electoral process.

These bills also take an important step toward expanding access to the ballot by creating more opportunities for voters to participate. A healthy democracy depends on broad, equitable engagement, and policies that make voting easier—not harder—help ensure that every eligible Missourian can exercise their fundamental right. We urge lawmakers to advance these bills and reaffirm their commitment to an inclusive, representative democracy.

We urge you to vote YES on HB 2387.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARILYN MCLEOD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 5:54 PM	
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The presidential preference primary allows all citizens to express their support for potential presidential contenders. It is a much better way to involve citizens than political party caucuses which have limited citizen involvement.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MARK FIEGENBAUM		PHONE NUMBER: 573-690-8580	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI FARM BUREAU		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF STATE AND LOCAL AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 701 S. COUNTRY CLUB DR.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: mark.fiegenbaum@mofb.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 7:23 AM	
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We support reinstating the presidential primary.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL WESTEN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2026 10:57 PM
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I support the reinstatement of the presidential primary election.

I would like to see the no-excuse, in-person early voting period shortened to 1 week.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MIKE HAFFNER		PHONE NUMBER: 816-529-2024	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MO REPUBLICAN PARTY		TITLE: MO REPUBLICAN PARTY	
ADDRESS: 20606 S 7 HWY			
CITY: PLEASANT HILL		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64080
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MILES ROSS		PHONE NUMBER: 417-827-8256	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI REPUBLICAN PARTY		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 5043 S GLENHAVEN AVE			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65804
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: RUSS CARNAHAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-799-7877	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MO DEMOCRATIC PARTY		TITLE: CHAIRMAN	
ADDRESS: 407 JEFFERSON ST.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH FELTS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 6:00 PM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2026 8:31 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: TYLER TRAVERS		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION - MISSOURI		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: COLUMBIA	STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL: tyler.vertexgov@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 2:27 PM
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Dear Honorable Committee Members:

The ACLU of Missouri submits this testimony in support of HB 2387 and HB 2480, which expands access to no-excuse absentee voting to three weeks prior to an election. The ACLU of Missouri is the state affiliate of the national ACLU and works in the courts, legislature, and Missouri communities to defend and preserve the civil rights of individual Missourians.

Expanding the no-excuse absentee voting period will ultimately expand access to the ballot box, strengthening the foundation of our participatory democracy. Missouri's current two week no-excuse absentee voting period has already shown its popularity. Since passage, counties across the State have seen thousands of voters take advantage of this option. For example, St. Louis and Boone Counties received hundreds of thousands of no-excuse absentee ballots cast in the last general election.

No-excuse absentee voting allows for greater access and convenience to the voting public, who often have responsibilities or barriers that make voting on a single day or narrow window of time difficult. This process also alleviates long lines and crowded polling places on Election Day. This bill also reinstates the presidential preference primary, which would allow for expanded participation in the primary process as opposed to the party caucus system.

We believe this bill presents common sense and reasonable updates to Missouri's voting system. Accordingly, we request you vote YES on HB 2387 and HB 2480.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: AMY DECLUE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 7:11 PM
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The presidential preferential primary is an unnecessary added expense in a state budget that can't afford added spending. Also, because our elections are not closed, this leaves our party elections open to manipulation by the opposite party. The caucus method of selecting a presidential candidate for a private political party is the most secure and economical option.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BEV EHLEM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 12:16 AM	

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When the MOGA passes CLOSED primaries then we can talk about PPP. And don't get me started about EXTENDING early voting! Even if voter turnout is improved (NO ONE has given ANY figures on improved voter turnout I can't get that information from the SOS website. CONVENIENCE isn't the most important thing that should be considered, EARLY VOTING should be limited to PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ONLY! Those elections are the only ones that an argument can be made that it will cut down on lines. SIMPLE common sense points that a thinking member of the MOGA should consider.



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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: 63011
EMAIL: freedomprinciplemo@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 9:59 AM	

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On behalf of the members of the Freedom Principle, we are testifying in strong opposition to HB 2387 and HB 2480, which seek to reinstate a non-binding presidential preference primary in Missouri. These bills represent an unnecessary and costly burden on taxpayers, while failing to address real issues in our election system.

First, the fiscal note attached to these bills is inaccurate and underestimates the true cost. It claims the expense would be \$9 million, but the Missouri Secretary of State has estimated the actual cost to be between \$10 million and \$15 million. In a time when Missourians are facing economic pressures, spending upwards of \$15 million on a non-binding primary is a complete waste of taxpayers' money. These funds could be far better allocated to essential services or tax relief for hardworking families.

Moreover, reinstating the presidential primary would disenfranchise Missouri voters. By the time Missouri's primary is typically held, most candidates have already dropped out of the race. Any votes cast for those withdrawn candidates effectively spoil the ballot, rendering the voter's choice meaningless. This late timing diminishes voter participation and undermines the democratic process.

For example, in the 2016 Republican presidential primary, there were initially 17 candidates on the ballot. However, by the time Missouri conducted its primary, only two legitimate contenders remained: Donald Trump and Ted Cruz. John Kasich was still listed, but he was insignificant in the race and widely viewed as a spoiler against Trump. Thousands of Missourians who voted for dropped-out candidates essentially threw away their votes, highlighting how this system fails voters.

It's also important to note that the grassroots community does NOT support these bills. Claims that grassroots organizations—from Central Committees to on-the-ground advocacy groups—back this reinstatement are pure misinformation. The real voices of Missouri conservatives prioritize election integrity over reviving a flawed, expensive process.

Finally, the Elections Committee has only conducted hearings on six bills this session, and shockingly, half of them focus on reinstating this non-binding presidential primary. This is a complete waste of legislative time and resources. Instead, the committee should prioritize critical reforms like banning non-citizens from registering to vote, eliminating foreign influences that impact our elections, and removing tabulator machines to safeguard the integrity of our voting process.

We respectfully urge the committee to reject HB 2387 and HB 2480 and focus on measures that truly

protect Missouri's elections and respect taxpayers.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHARLES GIRGIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 2:29 PM	
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I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to HB 2387.

HB 2387 reinstates a statewide presidential preference primary on the first Tuesday in March. On its face that may sound simple, but the fiscal reality is not: Missouri’s official fiscal note estimates costs up to \$9 million in March 2028 to hold this election.

My first objection is straightforward: Missouri taxpayers should not be asked to fund a party-nominating preference vote at this cost. Missouri made a deliberate policy change in 2022 to eliminate state funding for a presidential preference primary and return the responsibility to the parties. The 2024 cycle operated under that model, with parties running their own processes. The caucus/party-run approach worked in 2024; therefore, we should not reverse course and commit millions in taxpayer funds to recreate what parties can do themselves.

Second, HB 2387 creates a duplicative system. Under the bill, delegates are still chosen at party conventions under party rules—meaning the party process continues regardless. That raises a basic question: why should the public pay for an additional statewide “preference” election if parties still run the delegate selection process anyway?

Third, HB 2387 bundles this expensive presidential primary with a variety of unrelated election-administration changes—no-excuse in-person absentee voting to shifting candidate filing deadlines. All of these changes do not improve the quality and integrity of the election process.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to vote NO on HB 2387. Thank you for considering my testimony.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: CHRIS ROEPE		PHONE NUMBER: 816-294-0497
REPRESENTING: MO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY CLERKS AND ELECTION AUTHORITIES		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: roepe@bardgett.net	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 8:31 AM
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MACCEA has concerns with shrinking in person excused absentee in person voting from 6 weeks down to 3 weeks.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CLIF EHLEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 12:18 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GERI THWING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2026 10:54 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JO WHITBY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 10:24 PM
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This bill attempts to fix a problem that doesn't exist and "fix it" with my money.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KRISTINE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 11:52 AM
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- 1) Early voting is expensive and unnecessary. If someone cannot vote on election day, he/she can request an absentee ballot. That's what those ballots are for.
- 2) A lot can happen in the three weeks prior to election day. People who vote early run the risk of voting for candidates they later regret.
- 3) Let's make election day great again. Make election day a national holiday and cut out all the early voting.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA THOMAS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 8:23 PM	
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I'm opposed to BOTH of these bills . President Trump has said clearly and consistently that he wants to eliminate early voting. Why would true Republicans put forth these bills?? Shame on you both!



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL COMPTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ACT FOR MISSOURI		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: WARRENSBURG		STATE: MO ZIP: 64093
EMAIL: mike@act4mo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 1:16 PM
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Chairman and members of the committee,

Act for Missouri strongly opposes HB 2387 because it pushes Missouri further toward an “election season” model by expanding no-excuse, in-person absentee (“early voting”) to begin the third Tuesday before Election Day. That is a major policy shift. Even with photo ID, stretching voting out over weeks increases the handling, administrative complexity, chain-of-custody exposure, and opportunities for error or abuse. Just as importantly, it undermines public confidence. When voting becomes a rolling process instead of a single, well-defined civic event, citizens reasonably question whether elections are being run with the maximum level of transparency and control.

Missouri should be moving in the opposite direction: toward Election Day, not Election Season. Convenience is not the highest good in elections—trust is. The right to vote deserves a system that is simple, auditable, and beyond question. If lawmakers want to improve access, there are better ways that don’t expand the time window and attack surface—such as ensuring adequate polling locations and staffing on Election Day and maintaining strong, uniform verification rules. For these reasons, we urge you to vote NO on HB 2387.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2387		DATE: 2/3/2026	
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: PAMELA K. GROW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 12:21 PM	

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Dear Chair Reedy and Members of the Elections Committee: I'm the former two-term clerk from Phelps County (2015-2022, inclusive). HB 2387 reinstates the presidential preference primary (PPP), which I'm against. The political parties do not always bind their national delegates to the outcome of the state's PPP during the national presidential convention, so the PPP is rather toothless and would delude the voters. The PPP is expensive and costs are borne by the state, rather than by the political parties. When I was clerk I had to submit itemized expenses to the SOS after the 2016 and 2020 PPP elections; none of my expenses were denied; the cost in our county was in the \$40,000-\$50,000 range. This cost, multiplied by the number of counties, agrees well with the cost estimates of the PPP provided in the past by the SOS. I am also a bit puzzled by proposed new language I see on page 13, within the new section 115.770. There it guarantees that all voters may vote on all matters on which they are qualified to vote, in the general municipal election. To me this is language put in so that the PPP and the municipal election can be superimposed, on the same date. Perhaps the worst aspect is that a primary restricts ballot access to one candidate for each party and if the primary is open (and currently very few voters have a party affiliation in their voter record), the ultimate winner may not really be representative of the political ideals of the grassroots members of the party. A county caucus is much better, in that there is much less secrecy and subterfuge possible when people have to attend a meeting with their neighbors. The grassroots people know the political landscape in their county. One last comment I would make is that I hope all committee members are aware that the sole statute currently in Chapter 115 mentioning a "caucus" is 115.776. Please do not strike this section of the law through an amendment. Thanks for your time, Pamela K. Grow, M.D.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA KNIGHT		PHONE NUMBER: 417-531-5729	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE MEMBER; FEDERATED REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEMBER		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 6430 HIGHWAY H			
CITY: HARTVILLE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65667
EMAIL: Patti@logs.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 2:09 PM	
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No to Presidential Primary. Let's make our caucus work to involve "informed" voters and get presidential candidates to come to our state and spend money to educate voters. Doesn't Missouri have a budget problem - stop the unnecessary spending.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 8:08 AM	

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HB 2387 is an unconstitutional over-regulation of the franchise. It substitutes suspicion for evidence, bureaucracy for necessity, and restriction for integrity. Missouri law already criminalizes election fraud; this bill instead manufactures technical barriers that predictably disenfranchise lawful voters.

The bill burdens absentee voting, chills lawful voter assistance and civic engagement, and conditions ballot access on procedural perfection rather than voter eligibility. When statutory complexity operates as a gatekeeping mechanism, the result is not election security—it is unequal access to the ballot.

The General Assembly may regulate elections, but it may not erect unnecessary obstacles that infringe fundamental rights or suppress political participation under the guise of “uniformity.”

HB 2387 does exactly that, and it will not withstand constitutional review.

HB 2387 does not stand alone. It is part of a recurring legislative pattern in which election administration is repeatedly amended to add procedural complexity, documentation requirements, and criminal penalties without a corresponding evidentiary record of systemic fraud. When viewed in context with other recent election bills advancing similar restrictions, the cumulative effect is voter suppression by attrition rather than any demonstrable improvement in election integrity.

Courts do not evaluate such measures in isolation. When multiple enactments operate together to burden the same fundamental right, the pattern itself becomes constitutionally relevant.

This legislation should be rejected.

Constitutional Footnotes:

- Mo. Const. art. I, § 25 — Elections must be “free and open.”**
- Mo. Const. art. I, § 2 — Equal rights and protection; prohibition on arbitrary burdens.**
- Mo. Const. art. I, § 8 — Free speech and political participation.**
- Mo. Const. art. I, § 10 — Due process; protection against arbitrary deprivation of rights.**
- Mo. Const. art. VIII, § 2 — Right of qualified citizens to vote.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUE MITCHELL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 8:03 AM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DIANE THOMPSON		PHONE NUMBER: 660-747-6161	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: COUNTY OF JOHNSON		TITLE: COUNTY CLERK	
ADDRESS: 300 N HOLDEN ST			
CITY: WARRENSBURG		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64093
EMAIL: dthompson@jocomo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 9:11 AM	

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As a County Clerk and Local Election Authority, I have concerns about the portion of this bill that would reduce in person absentee voting from six weeks down to three. While I do appreciate that it would be no excuse, I believe that it will create a lot of confusion and frustration for voters if there are two different time periods for absentee voting – six weeks by mail but only three weeks in person. We have “snow birds” that want to cast their ballot before they leave for warmer weather; truck drivers, traveling nurses and linemen that rely on absentee voting due to hectic unpredictable schedules in the late fall and early spring during storm seasons; and college students that have limited availability to return to their home county to absentee vote. Reducing the time they are allowed to cast an absentee ballot in person from six weeks to three has the potential to disenfranchise voters unnecessarily. We have seen what a shorter time period does to the absentee voting process – long lines, increased stress levels on staff, aggravation and irritation on the part of the voter.

Offering an absentee ballot by mail is little consolation when the mail service is unpredictable. If a voter shows up at our office five weeks before the election and we have to turn them away and suggest they request an absentee ballot by mail, they are going to be dissatisfied that they aren’t getting to exercise their right to vote and they will now have to rely on the mail and wait several days for a ballot to show up in their mailbox that they could have cast when they came into the office. Depending on the circumstances, they may not be able to receive a ballot by mail (i.e. truck driver or lineman). Additionally we are adding more ballots to the mail system that could have been cast in the office.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SHERRY PARKS		PHONE NUMBER: 660-646-8000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LIVINGSTON COUNTY		TITLE: LIVINGSTON COUNTY CLERK/ELECTION AUTHORITY	
ADDRESS: 700 WEBSTER ST, SUITE 10			
CITY: CHILLICOTHE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64601
EMAIL: countyclerk@livingstoncountymmo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 11:21 AM	

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As the Livingston County Clerk and Election Authority, as well as the immediate past President of the Missouri Association of County Clerks and Election Authorities, I would like to express some thoughts on HB 2387. I want to point out that I appreciate Representative Banderman’s compromise to increase the no-excuse absentee voting by one week, however, I have some concerns with shortening the opportunity to walk into the EA’s office to cast an absentee ballot.

1) Currently, the timeline for receiving a ballot by mail and waking into the election authority’s office is the same, six weeks. I think that having two different timelines will be confusing to the voters and frankly, to the election authority’s staff. While this one change may not seem significant, there are literally thousands of statutes that County Clerks/Election Authorities must be aware of and implement. Keep in mind that most Election Authorities are also the County Clerk and while the election process is in progress, the office and limited staff are working on various other duties with statutory deadlines.

2) Reducing the time period for walk-ins by half is concerning as well. In 2024, the media played a major role in informing the voters of the no-excuse option and all Election Authorities throughout Missouri were inundated with voters. While we advocate for high voter turnout and desire all ELIGILE voters to exercise this privilege, it is very difficult to manage the influx of voters with limited staff and office space. Handling the same number of voters in half the time will be very difficult, creating longer lines with longer waiting periods, causing frustration and stress for the EA staff, as well as the voters. Keep in mind we are also trying to serve the public in other areas as well. 89 of the 116 Election Authorities are Third Class County Clerks, who are processing payroll, AP, waiting on Notary Publics for their renewal, selling various licenses, participating in the county commissioner meetings, and the list goes on, while also helping with the absentee voting process.

3) Reducing the opportunity for various voters to walk into the office to vote with an excuse is concerning. With a six-week absentee voting period, it is already challenging for a variety of voters, such as college students, snowbirds, and truck drivers to walk in and vote. In addition, many rural voters have a daily commute to urban areas, such as nurses. Many people have unexpected situations, in which there is no time to request a ballot be mailed, voted and returned timely and must walk in to vote absentee. I fear this will cause potential walk-in voters to request a mailed ballot, which may not arrive timely. I can’t even begin to tell you how horrible the mail service has gotten. Frankly, the Pony Express was more efficient than the current system, with mail taking several days to travel across the county. I really believe if the time period to walk in to vote absentee is shortened, we will disenfranchise eligible voters, which I know is not the desire of anyone involved in this decision.

4) The final point is that when a voter walks into the office to vote, fully trained staff sees their photo ID, their eligibility is confirmed, they are given the ballot in which they vote and upon completion, the voter inserts into the tabulator. A secured tabulator that remains sealed and locked until time to process the absentee ballots. The ballot does not leave the building. The ballot is voted on by the intended voter. The identity of the voter is confirmed and no one else handles the ballot. In my opinion, it is less than ideal and the opportunity for problems will arise if the voters who need to vote sooner than the three week period walk in period is turned away and forced to ask for the ballot to be mailed.

Thank you for your time and attention to my concerns. Thank you for working to better the laws of Missouri, especially in working toward more secure, transparent, safe and fair elections. Thank you for serving in the House of Representatives for the great state of Missouri. You are appreciated.