



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2480		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 M HERNDON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 10:51 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Making voting more accessible for all eligible voters is essential. This would help rural voters immensely.



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



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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.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CAROL A. SCHREIBER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 3:21 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I support a presidential primary reinstated in Missouri. This process allows all Missouri voters make their preference known in 2028, when there will not be any incumbent running for president. The weird methods used by the political parties in 2024 only had a very small number of people participate. The presidency is too important to play games with voters' preferences. I also support early voting expanded to three weeks. Four weeks would be preferable, since that mirrors absentee voting.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAROLE WEBSTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2026 4:50 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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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: CYNTHIA MUELLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 8:41 AM	
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Please return open presidential primaries to the voters. I miss them. We need them. Voters are enthusiastic about presidential elections and a primary is the way to engage them.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVE WEBSTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 10:45 AM	

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Many people frequently don't agree with a caucus, this gives them a true voice to choose who should be their party's candidate.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DEBORAH MOODY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 12:22 PM
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Presidential primaries allow more convenience for voters than caucuses ensuring more participation from voters.

Presidential primaries are locally funded and follow local election guidelines and policies.



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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 9:59 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I support HB 2480. The primary process is a familiar one with official ballots and secure submission of votes. I also appreciate the extension of no-excuse voting to three weeks. As was stated in testimony today, extending this to four weeks would also encourage more people to vote. If possible, an amendment extending to four weeks would be appreciated.



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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	

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 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 2480.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JULIE A TIETZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 9:07 AM

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

I support this bill because it promotes participation in elections and the democratic process. Primaries are anonymous, unlike caucuses, allowing people to cast their vote freely without fear of reprisals. Furthermore, primaries are local and more accessible than caucuses for working people, people needing child care, etc. Early voting is also a feature of primaries, supporting their accessibility, and encouraging more people to vote.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KAY PARK		PHONE NUMBER: 314-368-1178	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 9888 OLD WARSON RD			
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63124
EMAIL: kaypark122@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2026 2:28 PM	

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

I am writing on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Missouri to SUPPORT HB 2480 which reinstates the presidential primary for the following reasons:

- * Voting happens anonymously through a secret ballot
- * Primaries are run by and paid for by state and local governments
- * Primaries use state controlled election procedures
- * Primaries are local and more accessible than caucuses for working people, people needing child care, etc
- * Early voting is a feature of primaries, supporting their accessibility.

Please consider these points to support HB 2480.

Thank you,
Kay Park, President
League of Women Voters of Missouri



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KRISTI L BRANSTETTER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 10:15 PM

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
Missouri needs to restore its Presidential primary! It is part of the democratic process!**



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARCIA CRANDALL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 12:39 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I support HB 2480. Presidential primaries are much more democratic. Give more voters to chose who is to represent the party in the election. Caucuses are limiting by time, location, management. Primaries are by secret ballot which is the voters right.



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

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 the political party caucuses which are limited to a small number of participants who are available to attend and need to be official members of a political party.



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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: MARY WAGGENER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 6:06 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I support HB 2480 because:

- Voting happens anonymously through a secret ballot.
- Primaries are run by, and paid for by, state and local governments.
- Primaries use state-controlled election procedures
- Primaries are local and more accessible than caucuses for working people, people needing child care, etc.
- Early voting is a feature of primaries, supporting their accessibility



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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		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: NANCY ZELIFF		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 11:21 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Primaries are local and more accessible for working people and those needing childcare than caucuses. Early voting is a feature of primaries, supporting their accessibility. The primary process is a familiar one regarding official ballots and secure submissions of votes. And primaries use state-controlled election procedures.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA DANIEL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 3:09 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
I support this bill to reinstate the presidential preference primary to Missouri.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: REBECCA CALLAWAY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2026 5:52 PM	
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I support this bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RIVA CAPELLARI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2026 6:11 PM	
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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: SHERRY L BUCHANAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 3:36 PM	

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Presidential primaries enhance citizen participation. Caucuses are elitist and inaccessible for many voters.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUMMER JOSEPHSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 8:56 AM

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As a Missouri voter, I support HB 2480 which would reinstate the presidential preference primary.

The current practice of using caucuses makes it very difficult for the vast majority of Missourians (working people, caregivers, etc.) to participate. By contrast, primaries are local & allow for early voting, which would make it possible for more voters to participate.

Moreover, the primary process is familiar, secure, funded & administered by our state & local government.

Please support this sorely needed pro-democracy measure.



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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 6:36 PM

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Primary process is a familiar one of official ballots and secure submission of votes.

Primaries are local and more accessible than caucuses for working people, people needing child care, etc.

Early voting is a feature of primaries, supporting their accessibility.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2480		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: TARA STIGALL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2026 9:33 PM
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As a Missouri voter who participates in every election at every level, I strongly support HB 2480.

Reinstating the presidential preference primary gives voters like me a clear, accessible, and transparent way to have our voices heard in the presidential nomination process. Missouri voters deserve a consistent, state-run election that is easy to understand and participate in.

I also support extending in-person, no-excuse absentee voting to three weeks. Having a longer early voting period makes it easier for people with work, family, or health obligations to vote without barriers, while still maintaining the integrity of our elections.

HB 2480 responsibly addresses the administrative and financial realities of running a statewide election by setting clear deadlines, aligning procedures with existing primary elections, and ensuring the State covers the costs. These provisions support local election authorities and help ensure elections are run smoothly and fairly across Missouri.

I respectfully urge the committee to support HB 2480. Thank you for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2480		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			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: TOMMIE HOLLINS SR		PHONE NUMBER: 573-647-9366	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI STATE CONFERENCE NAACP		TITLE: VP NAACP, PULASKI COUNTY, MO	
ADDRESS: BOX 407			
CITY: WAYNESVILLE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65584
EMAIL: thsr007@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2026 8:34 PM	
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**Bills restore presidential preference primary
expands opportunities for voters to participate
NAACP Position: Support**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2480		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		
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
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

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.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2480		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: VRENI JONES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2026 7:22 PM

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I support returning to a presidential preference primary.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2480		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: 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.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2480		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			
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	

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

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.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2480		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: 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 2480.

HB 2480 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 2480 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 2480 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 2480. Thank you for considering my testimony.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2480		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: 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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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2480		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: 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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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2480		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: 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.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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: 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! Also, the PPP costs the taxpayers millions of dollars!! and the party STILL decides on the candidates. Stop wasting our tax dollars!!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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: MICHAEL COMPTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ACT FOR MISSOURI		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: WARRENSBURG		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 64093
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 12:00 AM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2480		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 12:47 PM

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

Dear Chair Reedy and Members of the House Committee on Elections: I'm against reinstating the presidential preference primary (PPP) because it misleads and deludes the voters into thinking the outcome determines the binding of delegates to the winner, when that is up to the political parties. I would go so far as to say it is some sort of charade, in a state with open primaries, to allow people to sweep into a polling place--or worse, a "location designated by the election authority" (see p. 2, section 115.277) with no excuse needed now for three weeks (as in this bill)--to cross ideological boundaries and influence the selection of the candidate in a party they do not really identify with. Now, I'll reflect a little on this expansion of "no-excuse" voting from 2 to 3 weeks: this is a real burden on the local election authority (LEA) during a time of extremely hectic preparation for the upcoming election. People are encouraged to vote early; this expands the period of security vulnerability ("live" ballots being handled, more foot traffic, inexperienced temp. workers being put in when the election laws seem to have to change MULTIPLE times per year and we all know change increases the opportunity for error!). The narrower the period of vulnerability, the better. I was county clerk in Phelps County for 8 years and oversaw 19 elections; this pales, I know, in comparison to Representative McGaugh's experience but I was paying attention to what was happening, all the same. Page 5 has new language for RSMo 115.770 which seems to suggest that one aim is to overlay the general municipal election (GME) with the PPP. There is language saying voters are permitted to vote on all races and issues in the GME at the time of the PPP. With all due respect, is this some sort of vehicle put in to permit further amendment to superimpose these two elections, through subsequent amendment, to enhance the chances this PPP-reinstating bill will pass? One last warning: as of now, the only mention in all of RSMo of a caucus is RSMo 115.776. Please carefully scrutinize election bills to see what is being done with 115.776! Sincerely, Pamela K. Grow, M.D.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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: 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 2:18 PM	
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No to Presidential Preference Primary. Let the county committees be involved and hold a caucus. Let the educated and informed voters contribute a few hours of their time to let their voices be heard. Doesn't the state have a budget problem? Stop spending unnecessary money.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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: 2/3/2026 8:17 AM	
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HB 2480 is not election administration.

It is election manipulation dressed up as procedure.

This bill reopens settled election law not to solve a demonstrated problem, but to impose additional structural barriers on voter participation while insulating those barriers from judicial review through aggressive nonseverability clauses.

That is not neutral governance; it is an attempt to rig the statutory framework so that if courts intervene, voters lose. Missouri law does not permit the legislature to weaponize fragility as a policy choice.¹

HB 2480 further entrenches party-controlled gatekeeping in a publicly funded election by conditioning presidential primary ballot access on wealth, institutional backing, or mass signature collection.

A \$5,000 filing fee or 5,000-signature requirement does not protect voters—it protects party infrastructure. When access to the ballot depends on money or machinery rather than voter support, equal protection concerns are not hypothetical; they are inevitable.²

This bill also cannot be viewed in isolation. It is part of a repeated, cross-session pattern of reopening the same election statutes to add complexity, criminal exposure, and procedural friction—without evidence of widespread fraud or administrative failure.

Courts do not ignore patterns.

When the cumulative effect of legislation predictably burdens the right to vote, the legislature owns that burden.³

Missouri’s Constitution guarantees elections that are free, open, and meaningful—not elections engineered to be technically compliant while practically exclusionary.⁴

HB 2480 moves Missouri in the wrong direction: away from voter confidence, away from stability, and toward constant rule-changing that benefits insiders at the expense of the electorate.

This bill is unnecessary, constitutionally suspect, and hostile to the franchise.

It should not advance.

Footnotes:

Mo. Const. art. I, § 25 (Free and Open Elections); League of Women Voters of Mo. v. Ashcroft, 336 F. Supp. 3d 998 (W.D. Mo. 2018).

Bullock v. Carter, 405 U.S. 134 (1972) (ballot access schemes tied to wealth violate equal protection).

Anderson v. Celebrezze, 460 U.S. 780 (1983) (courts evaluate cumulative burdens on voting rights).

Mo. Const. art. I, § 2 (political power vested in the people).



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2480		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: SUE MITCHELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 8:03 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			