



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2605		DATE: 3/3/2026	
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: ARNIE C. A.C. "HONEST ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1535			
CITY: O'FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BRANDON ALEXANDER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-751-4824	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI STATE AUDITOR		TITLE: CHIEF OF STAFF	
ADDRESS: 201 W CAPITOL AVENUE ROOM 229			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CAITLIN WHALEY		PHONE NUMBER: 660-422-2671	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARD's ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2100 1-70 DR SW			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: CHRIS ROEPE		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: MO ASSOC COUNTY CLERKS & ELECTION AUTHORITIES		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 205 E. CAPITOL AVE		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: DOUG CREWS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-881-5272	
REPRESENTING: MO PRESS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 802 LOCUST ST			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM	
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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: 3/3/2026 8:14 PM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: MATT THOMPSON		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: BOONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 124 E HIGH STREET		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: matt@wintonpolicygroup.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 8:06 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL GROTE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-424-5120	
REPRESENTING: BOONE COUNTY MISSOURI		TITLE: VICE-PRESIDENT & GENERAL COUNSEL	
ADDRESS: PO BOX638			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL: Mike@ga2.us	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 8:29 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. Boone County Missouri Supports this legislation.			



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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	
ADDRESS: 1512 RIDGELINE DRIVE			
CITY: MOBERLY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65270
EMAIL: copenhaver22@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 8:19 PM	

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

The League of Women Voters appreciates the work that Rep. McGaugh has done to make elections function more efficiently, particularly in the changes being made in HB 2605 to be sure voters get accurate and timely information before they vote.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: SCOTT KIMBLE		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 3550 AMAZONAS DRIVE		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: STEVE AHLERS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-619-1080	
REPRESENTING: MO ASSOC OF COUNTIES		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1648 E. ELM			
CITY: JC		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEANETTE PARKER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 12:28 PM	
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I am opposed to HB2605. Too many missouri citizens do not have passports or birth certificates and would be prevented from voting. The cost to get a passport or birth certificate i(especially if you were born out of state,) may cause some less priviledged people to do without food or needed healthcare items. Voting should not be made into an obstruction.



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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: 3/2/2026 12:02 PM	

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HB 2605 materially alters Missouri election notice requirements, modifies bond validation finality standards, and changes procedures for uncontested ambulance district elections. While administrative streamlining may be the stated goal, several provisions raise constitutional concerns.

I. Reduction of Election Notice Publication Requirements

The bill replaces the requirement to publish legal notice in “two newspapers of different political faith” with publication in only one qualifying newspaper circulated in the jurisdiction and alters timing requirements.

Reducing notice mechanisms in election administration implicates due process and voter access principles. Courts have long recognized that election procedures must provide adequate notice and opportunity for participation.¹ While states retain broad authority over election mechanics, that authority must not operate in a manner that burdens the right to vote without sufficient justification.²

Consolidating notice into a single publication channel — particularly in areas with limited media diversity — increases the risk that affected voters may not receive meaningful notice, creating foreseeable procedural due process and equal protection challenges if turnout disparities or access issues result.³

II. Mail Notice to Registered Voters

The bill allows election authorities to mail legal notice within six weeks prior to the election and permits exclusion of voters designated “inactive.”

Excluding inactive voters from mailed notice raises constitutional concerns. If an individual remains registered but is excluded from official notice based solely on inactivity designation, that differential treatment may implicate equal protection principles.⁴ Administrative voter list maintenance must be carefully structured to avoid discriminatory effects or arbitrary exclusion from electoral participation.⁵

III. Bond Validity Deemed Compliant After Election Contest Period

The bill provides that, once the time period for election contests expires, all conditions of Chapter 115 shall be deemed complied with in the issuance of bonds.

While finality in public finance is important, deeming compliance conclusively satisfied by lapse of contest period may restrict taxpayer remedies beyond constitutional limits. Missouri courts recognize the right of taxpayers to challenge unlawful public expenditures.⁶

Statutory provisions cannot insulate constitutionally defective bond issuances from review if they exceed constitutional debt limits or violate procedural safeguards.⁷

IV. Uncontested Ambulance District Elections Eliminated

The bill provides that if the number of candidates does not exceed the number of directors to be elected, no election shall be held and candidates automatically assume office.

While uncontested elections are common in some contexts, eliminating the election entirely removes the formal public vote. Courts have recognized that election procedures must preserve the structural integrity of the electoral process.⁸ Automatic seating without ballot presentation may invite challenges if voters are deprived of a formal electoral act guaranteed by statute.

Conclusion:

HB 2605 reduces election notice publication safeguards, authorizes exclusion of inactive voters from mailed notice, creates conclusive bond validity presumptions tied to contest deadlines, and eliminates certain uncontested elections. Each provision independently presents litigation exposure grounded in due process, equal protection, and Missouri constitutional taxpayer-protection principles. Streamlining election administration must not compromise notice adequacy, voter equality, or constitutional oversight mechanisms.

Legislative Notice: The General Assembly is placed on notice that HB 2605's reduction of election notice publication requirements, exclusion of inactive voters from mailed notice, conclusive bond validity presumption tied to contest deadlines, and elimination of formal uncontested elections create foreseeable due process, equal protection, and taxpayer standing challenges if implementation results in diminished notice, unequal treatment of registered voters, or insulation of potentially unconstitutional bond issuances from judicial review.

Footnotes:

Mullane v. Central Hanover Bank & Trust Co., 339 U.S. 306 (1950) (notice must be reasonably calculated to apprise interested parties of action).

Anderson v. Celebrezze, 460 U.S. 780 (1983) (state election laws subject to constitutional scrutiny when burdening voting rights).

U.S. Const. amend. XIV; Reynolds v. Sims, 377 U.S. 533 (1964) (equal protection principles in election administration).

Bush v. Gore, 531 U.S. 98 (2000) (equal treatment in election procedures).

Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Institute, 584 U.S. 756 (2018) (voter list maintenance subject to federal statutory and constitutional constraints).

Eastern Missouri Laborers Dist. Council v. St. Louis County, 781 S.W.2d 43 (Mo. banc 1989) (taxpayer standing principles).

Mo. Const. art. VI (public debt limitations); see also State ex rel. Drainage Dist. v. Duncan, 334 Mo. 733 (1934) (constitutional limits override statutory validation mechanisms).

Wesberry v. Sanders, 376 U.S. 1 (1964) (structural integrity of electoral representation).



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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: 3/1/2026 8:03 PM	
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I object to picking and choosing which voters would get a notice mailed to them.