



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2818		DATE: 1/27/2026
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		
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: KEVIN WALSH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2026 6:44 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This bill will prevent some cruelty.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: MIKE SHOEMAKER		PHONE NUMBER: 816-918-7114
REPRESENTING: CITY OF ST. JOSEPH		TITLE: CITY MANAGER
ADDRESS: 4604 WILSHIRE DR		
CITY: ST JOSEPH		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 64506
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RICHARD JACKSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 11:50 PM	
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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: 1/24/2026 2:41 PM

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I respectfully oppose House Bill 2818 because it substantially weakens long-standing protections for property owners and voters while expanding municipal annexation authority in ways that are overbroad, unevenly applied, and legally risky.

This bill is not merely procedural. It alters the balance of power between cities and the people who live outside their borders.

I. Annexation Without Meaningful Consent

HB 2818 allows annexation to proceed by ordinance unless a very narrow objection threshold is met — as little as two qualified voters in the annexed area. In many unincorporated areas, residents may be renters, elderly, transient, or otherwise unaware of the proceeding within the short objection window.

Annexation changes tax obligations, zoning authority, policing, and municipal control. Such a profound shift in governance should not occur by default or silence. Consent must be clear, informed, and meaningful — not presumed.

II. Erosion of Property-Owner Safeguards

The bill further states that a petition’s failure to be verified or notarized “shall not affect the validity” of an annexation.

This removes a basic safeguard against error, coercion, or fraud. Verification requirements exist for a reason: to ensure authenticity and protect property rights.

Eliminating their legal significance invites litigation and undermines public confidence in the process.

III. Special-Classifications and Unequal Treatment

HB 2818 creates multiple carve-outs based on:
 population ranges,
 county classifications,
 proximity to highways,
 presence of correctional facilities,
 and ownership of airports.

These narrow, fact-specific provisions appear tailored to particular jurisdictions rather than the state as a whole. Laws of general application should not be written to quietly solve local political problems. This invites equal-protection challenges and erodes trust in neutral governance.

IV. Forced Expansion Equals Forced Liability

Annexation does not only extend boundaries — it extends financial responsibility. Cities that annex territory assume obligations to provide services, infrastructure, policing, and maintenance. When annexation occurs without rigorous feasibility analysis or voter approval, taxpayers — both inside and outside the city — assume long-term costs that may far exceed projected benefits.

This bill lowers the threshold for annexation while leaving future taxpayers to absorb the risk.

V. A Five-Year Bar to Challenge Is Unreasonable

Finally, the bill imposes a five-year statute of repose on any challenge to annexation — regardless of whether residents were properly notified, understood the implications, or had practical ability to object.

Government action that affects property and taxation should not be insulated from review simply because time has passed. Finality should never come at the expense of fairness.

Annexation should be deliberate, transparent, and rooted in genuine consent — not administrative convenience.

HB 2818 expands municipal power, diminishes individual protections, and increases financial and legal risk for citizens across Missouri.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose this bill.