



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HCR 23		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	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BRIAN BOYLE		PHONE NUMBER: 917-699-7765	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AMERICAN PROMISE		TITLE: CHIEF PROGRAM OFFICER & GENERAL COUNSEL	
ADDRESS: 33 BRADFORD STREET			
CITY: CONCORD		STATE: MA	ZIP: 01742
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 12:00 AM	
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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: 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 MO stands firmly committed to safeguarding election integrity as a cornerstone of our republic and a vital protection for Missourians' God-given rights and self-governance. We believe that free, fair, and secure elections are essential to preserving trust in our democratic process and ensuring that every lawful vote counts accurately. As a statewide, membership-driven organization dedicated to Missouri First principles, we strongly support the authority of the State of Missouri to administer its own elections without undue federal interference. This aligns with the Tenth Amendment's reservation of powers to the states and recognizes Missouri as a "laboratory of democracy" capable of crafting election laws tailored to our citizens' needs, including robust measures for voter verification, campaign finance oversight, and preventing external influences. We urge continued defense of state sovereignty in these matters to maintain accountability, electoral transparency, and the integrity that Missourians deserve.



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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: 2/23/2026 7:45 PM

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The Constitution makes it clear that elections are controlled by the states. I agree that we should all encourage our federal legislators to protect state's rights.

Carol Schreiber



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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: 14684 LOS PADRES COURT		
CITY: CHESTERFIELD		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63017
EMAIL: jbernstein@ncjwstl.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 11:57 AM

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

Mr. Chair and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony in support of HCR 23. My name is Jen Bernstein and I am the Director of Advocacy 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.

This resolution affirms a simple but important principle: that decisions affecting Missourians should not all be made in Washington, D.C. State and local leaders are closest to the people and best understand the needs of their communities. Federalism helps ensure that Missouri has the ability to make decisions that reflect the values and priorities of our own residents.

Supporting HCR 23 sends a clear message that Missouri believes in a balanced system where states have a meaningful voice. When that balance is respected, government is more responsive, accountable, and effective. This resolution reinforces Missouri's role in standing up for the rights of states and the people they serve.

NCJWSTL urges you to vote yes on HCR 23.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JILL HAMILTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 9:14 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIE BURCHETT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 10:53 AM	
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Please reject federal control of elections. Elections are to be controlled by the states per the Constitution. Please stand up to the Trump administration.



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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: 2/24/2026 10:02 PM
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I am vehemently against federal control of elections. Elections need to remain in control of the state. Republicans need to stop giving their power to Trump!



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MAHREE SKALA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 2:27 PM

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Elections are clearly a state function and should not be federalized.



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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, LWVMO
ADDRESS: 1512 RIDGELINE DRIVE		
CITY: MOBERLY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65270
EMAIL: copenhaver22@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 9:32 AM

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The League of Women Voters of Missouri is in support of HCR 23. Keeping Missouri elections in control of Missouri is important to ensure that elections are fair and accurate without undue influence.



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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: 2/22/2026 11:09 PM	
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Elections must remain among the states. Missouri's congressional delegation in DC must reject federal control of elections.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RILEY MCEVOY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 2:05 AM
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Thank you for calling on our Congressional Representatives to reaffirm our state right to our elections. It is not a privilege, and the government doesn't get to decide our standards on their whim.



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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: 2/23/2026 4:27 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ABIGAIL HERNDON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 5:23 PM

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This will the legislative branch more power and less accountability. This is ballot candy focusing on the federal legal 10th amendment while endangering the Missouri constitution and it's people. We already have laws in place for safe, free and fair elections.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DRUSILLA VAUGHAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 10:52 AM

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Missouri Republican elected officials have demonstrated their inability to stand strong against the federal government against their spoken intention to disenfranchise millions of legal registered voters. Given this current situation, our officials cannot be trusted to push back and protect voters, ensuring that every legal vote counts and no one is intimidated or interfered with in any part of the voting process.

“Patriotism” is being weaponised to lull gullible citizens into believing that Republicans own it. It is a tool of manipulation being used to subvert the voice of the people and is the least patriotic activity possible!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES MICHAEL SORRELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 9:57 AM

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This is totally unnecessary. States rights over elections have been in place for decades.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MONICA M HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 10:41 AM	
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I write to plead with you all to **VOTE AGAINST** all attempts by the federal government to control our elections that states currently control. No way I want the federal government dictating over and above the non-partisan or equally partisan election boards and officials. It is critical that we remain fair and committed to equal treatment of all voters. Complying with the intimidating rules and requirements the feds are putting out would be disastrous for us voters. **NO, NO, NO!**



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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: 2/24/2026 10:58 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. Unnecessary interference.		



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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: 2/24/2026 9:00 AM	
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I oppose HCR 23.

This resolution calls on Missouri’s congressional delegation to pursue federal action — including a potential constitutional amendment — to “affirm” state authority over election governance and campaign finance. While framed in federalism language, the resolution is legally redundant and strategically imprecise.

First, the U.S. Constitution already allocates primary authority over the “Times, Places and Manner” of elections to the states (Art. I, §4), subject to congressional oversight. Federalism in election administration is not absent — it is embedded in existing constitutional structure.

Second, campaign finance is not solely a federalism issue. It is governed by binding U.S. Supreme Court precedent interpreting the First Amendment (e.g., Buckley v. Valeo; Citizens United v. FEC). A generalized call to expand state authority over “election influence” necessarily collides with established free-speech doctrine. Any constitutional amendment in this arena would require precise drafting to avoid sweeping unintended consequences for core political speech protections.

Third, the resolution contains broad language about “foreign influence” and “disproportionate entities,” but federal statutes already prohibit foreign nationals from contributing to U.S. elections. The resolution does not identify a statutory gap requiring constitutional revision.

In effect, HCR 23 signals dissatisfaction with current First Amendment jurisprudence without articulating a concrete legal deficiency or narrowly tailored amendment language.

Resolutions of this kind risk encouraging structural constitutional revision without demonstrating necessity.

Missouri should not advance symbolic constitutional directives without a defined legal objective, narrowly framed amendment language, and full analysis of federal preemption and First Amendment consequences.

For these reasons, HCR 23 should not be adopted.

Legislative Notice:

The General Assembly is on notice that any effort to expand state authority over campaign finance or election influence through constitutional amendment would necessarily implicate established First Amendment jurisprudence and federal supremacy principles. Absent narrow drafting and clear legal justification, such action would create substantial constitutional conflict and litigation risk.