



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 124		DATE: 2/17/2026
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
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: AMY DECLUE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 11:52 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 124		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
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: ARNIE "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 11:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am in Support of this Bill have Protecting the Election of the County Office of Constitutional Sheriff. I would Saint Charles County to be remove from this exempt list



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 124		DATE: 2/17/2026
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
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: BRENDA HOPFER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 2:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I support this bill



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 124		DATE: 2/17/2026
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
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: HEATHER BROWN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:28 PM

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

**Sheriffs are the final protectors that stand in the way of government overreach against the citizens.
Every county needs an elected sheriff to protect the interests and constitutional rights of the people.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 124		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
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: JENNIFER SPENA		PHONE NUMBER: 816-536-0398	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE MO		TITLE: MRS	
ADDRESS: 13305 E PRAIRIE DR			
CITY: PECULIAR		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64078
EMAIL: jennyspena@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 1:32 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. We need constitutional sheriffs in Missouri.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 124		DATE: 2/17/2026
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
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: JUDI GAMBINO		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 12:58 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This is really needed and I am in full support.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 124		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
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: JUDY SOFKA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 3:46 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 124		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
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: KRISTINA TILLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 6:51 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I live in the southwest corner of Missouri where many of us have been requesting assistance for years due to a breakdown in law enforcement. Another victim of the corruption and falsification of criminal accusations by city officials and sheriffs department have created a site where we can all post the harassment, corruption, and endangerment we face daily. There is a large group of citizens with a vast amount of experiences and we were encouraged last year to fill out a form so that McDonald County commissioners could find out exactly why so many citizens were begging for help.

I personally have been drug to court because of accusations that I “was watched for over an hour by a neighbor (admitted in the police complaint they were watching my husband and I in our yard resting from mowing) and accused me of smiling and waving at her. I did not. I have reached out to multiple law enforcement and agencies trying to get this individual to leave my family alone. It just so happened that we moved our truck and this individual and it’s husband placed themselves across from us to watch us for over an hour, talking to each other and was accused of criminally “waving and smiling “ at a neighbor. I never did; I want no interaction with them. She (I say she but I really don’t know because on the complaint when it was supposed to be discribing me and the question was male or female (check a box), it put a question mark. It said that it had two protective orders against me, which the judge said in court “No you don’t. I checked and you don’t.” He also told her several times that she was hateful, full of hate every time I spoke, and was full of vitriol. It even claimed that I had called the FBI on it. Again a lie. I have tried for years to get authorities aware of the lies and faking victim hood that this thing has committed but it gets worse. I was served papers by a sheriff’s deputy who told me I didn’t have to show up, that if I had an expression on my face I could be drug to jail, and it’s treated as a joke that we are harassed in our home and yard. Now I was told I could go to jail for this individual’s fantasies, drug delusions, or outright lies of imaginary protective orders against me or imaginarily smiling and waving at this person. We walk our dog as per city ordinance and have been accused of stalking it’s children because it has it’s kids stand in the road or it’s yard with us framed in the background in our yard unaware that they are taking pictures and making allegations. My story is just one of many out of McDonald county. We filled out the form for the commissioners, we were told Jefferson City was listening and watching and nothing has changed. If you are not aware of the vast amount of corruption, innocent lives being destroyed, and constitutional rights stripped by the Sheriffs Department by supporting and spreading false narrative about citizens who trusted law enforcement and went to them for help stopping crimes, please inquire of the commissioners where are all of the citizens accounts of abuses, harassment, child endangerment, stalking, recording people in their yards and homes, animal abuse, etc. As it stands, it seems Jefferson City is not listening or possibly has not been truly informed of the dire straits McDonald County citizens are experiencing. When sheriffs use fantasies or drug delusions of an admitted stalker to threaten you for talking to your spouse in your

yard, we need some serious action.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 124		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
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: KRISTINE BUNCH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 12:50 PM

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

Our United States Constitutional Rights are being violated, our Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Press is being violated and I'm living proof of it happening. City of Smithville Alderman kicked me out of a local municipality meeting and asked I never to return. I've tried fighting it in Clay County Court and the Judge allowed a dismissal based on sovereign immunity. Our Constitutional Rights should be protected or we will lose the Freedom we have in America.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 124		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
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: MICHAEL BONHAM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 124		DATE: 2/17/2026
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
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: ROXANE MAGNUS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 7:29 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am in support of a Constitutional Sheriff for every Missouri County. Please pass this Bill



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 124		DATE: 2/17/2026
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety		
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: TRAVIS HEINS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 12:08 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 124		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
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: WALTER HAYES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 10:28 AM	

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

I am writing to express my support for HJR 124, which proposes a constitutional amendment to enshrine the election and role of county sheriffs as chief law enforcement officers in Missouri. As someone with deep respect for local governance and public safety, I believe this measure is essential for preserving community-driven law enforcement and ensuring accountability to voters rather than bureaucratic overreach.

This bill strengthens law enforcement by giving more authority to sheriffs, who are chosen by the public and answer directly to their communities. In rural and suburban areas, where exemptions exist for certain charter and urban regions, having elected sheriffs helps build trust and ensure officials respond to local needs. Elected sheriffs can handle issues like community policing, emergency services, and crime prevention more effectively than appointed officials, who might not have the same level of accountability to voters. Research from other states indicates that elected sheriffs often help reduce crime and increase public satisfaction by focusing on what their communities need, rather than following only top-down orders.

Missouri's belief in local control faces a challenge. If this amendment isn't passed, power could become concentrated, reducing local voices—especially during emergencies. HJR 124 acknowledges the sheriff's office as a key part of ensuring justice and matches the state's core values of freedom and self-rule. By putting this measure on the November 2026 ballot, Missourians can make their own choice, upholding the principle that government should serve the people.

I encourage you to approve HJR 124 and move it forward to the ballot. I appreciate your time in reviewing this testimony and your dedication to serving Missouri.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 124		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
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: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 10:56 PM	

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

HJR124 represents a dangerous continuation of the Missouri Legislature's assault on the local governance and democratic will of the people of St. Louis City.

This bill is not supported by the Senators elected to represent the city, seek to fundamentally alter the office of the St. Louis City Sheriff. These bills are particularly egregious, stripping voters of their right to elect their sheriff and instead placing that power in the hands of a majority of circuit judges. This is a direct attack on local control and self-determination. The Sheriff is a vital local official, responsible for court security, civil process, and jail operations. To remove the people's voice in selecting this leader is anti-democratic and disenfranchising.

This move cannot be viewed in isolation. It is part of a sustained pattern: last year, the state seized control of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Before that, it undermined the elected Circuit Attorney. Now, it targets the Sheriff. The legislature is systematically dismantling elected local authority in our majority-Black city, overriding the will of its residents at every turn.

Additionally, consolidating power over court security (the Sheriff's duty) with the judiciary that appoints him raises serious concerns. We have seen at the federal level how enhanced security for the Supreme Court preceded decisions that stripped away fundamental rights, like bodily autonomy. Concentrating these intertwined powers erodes checks and balances.

The proponents point to past misconduct by a sheriff, but the answer to bad democracy is not less democracy. The solution is accountability, transparency, and reform, not state-led disenfranchisement. The solution lies with St. Louis voters, not Jefferson City politicians overriding voters' choices.

I urge you to reject these bills. Uphold the right of St. Louisans to govern themselves and elect their local officials. Stop the state's continued hostile takeover of the city.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 124		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
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: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 10:54 PM	

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

HJR124 represents a dangerous continuation of the Missouri Legislature's assault on the local governance and democratic will of the people of St. Louis City.

This bill is not supported by the Senators elected to represent the city, seek to fundamentally alter the office of the St. Louis City Sheriff. These bills are particularly egregious, stripping voters of their right to elect their sheriff and instead placing that power in the hands of a majority of circuit judges. This is a direct attack on local control and self-determination. The Sheriff is a vital local official, responsible for court security, civil process, and jail operations. To remove the people's voice in selecting this leader is anti-democratic and disenfranchising.

This move cannot be viewed in isolation. It is part of a sustained pattern: last year, the state seized control of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Before that, it undermined the elected Circuit Attorney. Now, it targets the Sheriff. The legislature is systematically dismantling elected local authority in our majority-Black city, overriding the will of its residents at every turn.

Additionally, consolidating power over court security (the Sheriff's duty) with the judiciary that appoints him raises serious concerns. We have seen at the federal level how enhanced security for the Supreme Court preceded decisions that stripped away fundamental rights, like bodily autonomy. Concentrating these intertwined powers erodes checks and balances.

The proponents point to past misconduct by a sheriff, but the answer to bad democracy is not less democracy. The solution is accountability, transparency, and reform, not state-led disenfranchisement. The solution lies with St. Louis voters, not Jefferson City politicians overriding voters' choices.

I urge you to reject these bills. Uphold the right of St. Louisans to govern themselves and elect their local officials. Stop the state's continued hostile takeover of the city.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 124		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
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: 2/17/2026 8:28 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

HJR 124 proposes a constitutional amendment establishing the elected sheriff as the “chief law enforcement officer” in most Missouri counties, granting hiring authority at will, insulating removal to writ of quo warranto initiated only by the Attorney General, and limiting local governmental control notwithstanding Article VI, Section 18(a).

This proposal raises substantial structural and constitutional concerns.

1. Separation of Powers & Local Governance Conflict

The amendment overrides existing constitutional provisions governing charter counties and local administrative structure. By elevating the sheriff above conflicting constitutional provisions (“Notwithstanding Article VI, Section 18(a)...”), the resolution risks internal constitutional inconsistency and destabilizes home-rule authority.

Missouri Constitution:

Article VI, Section 18(a) (charter county governance)

Article VII (county officers)

Embedding supremacy language within the Constitution itself invites litigation over interpretive hierarchy and local autonomy.

2. Removal Restriction & Accountability Concerns

Limiting removal of an elected sheriff exclusively to a writ of quo warranto initiated by the Attorney General centralizes disciplinary power at the state level and eliminates other constitutional or statutory removal mechanisms.

This may:

Impair local accountability

Create separation-of-powers tension between counties and the Attorney General

Produce due process concerns where local governments lack remedial authority over executive misconduct

3. Employment Authority & Budgetary Conflict

Granting sheriffs unilateral authority to hire, appoint, and set compensation (within allocations) “at will

and pleasure” without local oversight risks conflict with:

County commission budget authority

Collective bargaining frameworks (where applicable)

Fiscal control provisions under Missouri law

The amendment constitutionally hardwires employment authority while leaving funding mechanisms unchanged — a foreseeable litigation trigger.

4. Ballot Language Concerns

The proposed summary states the amendment “supports law enforcement” and “preserves the right of citizens to elect a county sheriff.”

This language may be challenged as advocacy-oriented rather than neutral, raising concerns under Missouri ballot-title jurisprudence requiring fairness and impartiality.

Legislative Notice:

HJR 124 creates foreseeable constitutional conflict involving:

Article VI charter governance provisions

Separation of powers principles

Removal authority and due process implications

Ballot title neutrality requirements

If adopted, the amendment is likely to generate litigation testing the balance between county home rule, executive insulation, and statewide enforcement authority.

This statement is submitted to preserve legislative awareness of structural constitutional risk and to document foreseeability for the record.