

County: \_\_\_\_\_

INITIATIVE PETITION

We, the undersigned, registered voters of the state of Missouri and \_\_\_\_\_ County (or City of St. Louis), respectfully order that the following proposed amendment to the constitution shall be submitted to the voters of the state of Missouri, for their approval or

[OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE]

**CIRCULATOR'S AFFIDAVIT**

STATE OF MISSOURI, COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ being first duly sworn, say (print names of signers),

	NAME (Signature)	DATE Signed	REGISTERED VOTING ADDRESS (Number)(Street), (City, Town Or Village)	ZIP CODE	CONG. DIST.	NAME (Printed or Typed)
10						
9						
8						
7						
6						
5						
4						
3						
2						
1						

signed this page of the foregoing petition, and each of them signed his or her name thereto in my presence; I believe that each has stated his or her name, registered voting address and city, town or village correctly, and that each signer is a registered voter of the state of Missouri and \_\_\_\_\_  
County (or city of St. Louis). FURTHERMORE, I HEREBY SWEAR OR AFFIRM UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT ALL STATEMENTS MADE BY ME ARE TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT I HAVE NEVER BEEN CONVICTED OF, FOUND GUILTY OF, OR  
PLED GUILTY TO ANY OFFENSE INVOLVING FORGERY. I am at least 18 years of age. I do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_\_ (check one) expect to be paid for circulating this petition. If paid, list the payer: \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public (Seal)  
My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_



*Be it resolved by the people of the state of Missouri that the Constitution be amended:*

Article III of the Constitution is revised by adopting eight new sections to be known as sections 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, and 61 to read as follows:

Section 54.

1. Ballot summaries shall be clear, unbiased, fair, accurate, and easily understood, as provided in this section.
2. Official ballot summaries, including the summary statement and fiscal note summary, for any law or constitutional amendment proposed by initiative or referendum petition or referred or proposed by the legislature shall be completely clear, unbiased, accurate, and easily understood, notwithstanding any law to the contrary. Such official ballot summaries shall not be misleading, and shall correctly and fairly express the true intent and meaning of the measure and shall unambiguously state the principle of the provision sought to be added, amended, or repealed. Such official ballot summaries shall use language from the full text of the measure or proposal when doing so does not impede compliance with the remainder of this subsection.
3. No current or future law passed by the legislature shall prevent the circuit court or appellate courts, including the supreme court, from immediately adjudicating and rewriting ballot summaries in whole or in part.
4. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution or law to the contrary, a challenge to an official ballot summary for an initiative petition may not be brought after the election on the measure.
5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, an initiative or referendum petition that has been approved for circulation in accordance with the law may be circulated by petition circulators and signed by any registered voter in the state of Missouri using the ballot summary language that is certified for use at that time. All signatures gathered before any ballot summary change shall remain valid regardless of if one or more signatures were gathered prior to the alteration of the official ballot summary, and regardless of whether those signatures were gathered on petition pages that displayed what was previously the official ballot summary.
6. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, if a ballot summary for an initiative or referendum petition has not yet been certified, a petition may be circulated by petition circulators and signed by any registered voter in the state of Missouri using the full language of the initiative petition in lieu of a ballot summary. Once an official ballot summary has been certified, it shall be affixed to each page of the petition circulated after such certification, subject to subsection 4.

Section 55.

1. The legislature shall be prohibited from weakening citizens' direct lawmaking power, as provided in this section.
2. As of the effective date of this section, the legislature shall be prohibited from enacting or referring any law or proposing any constitutional amendment that weakens citizens' direct lawmaking power, as set forth in this Constitution, notwithstanding section 52(a) of Article III and sections 2(a) and 2(b) of Article XII of this Constitution. The phrase "weakens citizens' direct lawmaking power" shall be construed broadly, examples thereof including, but not being limited to, impeding the powers of initiative and referendum reserved to the people under this Constitution; imposing filing or processing fees for petitions; raising signature thresholds; shortening the time allowed for signature collection; narrowing allowable subject matter beyond that in this Constitution as of the effective date of this section; imposing additional requirements on the qualifications of petition circulators beyond those in this Constitution as of the effective date of this section; preventing or delaying judicial revision of ballot summaries; prohibiting or nullifying severability clauses in petitions; or rendering a simple statewide majority of votes cast on the measure by individual legal voters insufficient to approve or reject a law or constitutional amendment proposed by initiative or referendum petition. Further, any constitutional amendment that weakens citizens' direct lawmaking power, which is proposed by the legislature after January 1, 2025 but before the effective date of this section, to be submitted to voters for their approval or rejection at an election following the effective date of this section, shall be removed from the ballot and is void.
3. The rights of initiative and referendum as set forth in this Constitution are fundamental rights. Any registered voter of the state of Missouri has a right to propose laws and constitutional amendments by initiative petition and to propose the rejection of acts by the legislature by referendum petition, to sign such petitions, to circulate such petitions, and to vote on such petitions. However, no person shall qualify as a petition circulator who has been convicted of, found guilty of, or pled guilty to an offense involving forgery under the laws of this state or an offense under the law of any other jurisdiction if that offense would be considered forgery under the laws of this state.
4. Except as specifically set forth in this Constitution, any law affecting, governmental regulation of, or governmental action taken pertaining to, the fundamental rights of initiative and referendum as set forth in this Constitution is subject to strict scrutiny and must be narrowly tailored to achieve a compelling governmental interest.
5. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution or law to the contrary, requirements existing in this Constitution as of January 1, 2025 for proposing and enacting initiative and referendum petitions and the basis for computation of signatures required for such petitions shall be maintained, as follows: a statewide majority of votes cast on the measure shall be sufficient to enact any law or constitutional amendment proposed by initiative petition; a statewide majority of votes cast on the measure shall be sufficient to reject any law upon which a referendum is ordered by referendum petition; signatures from five percent of the number of legal voters for governor in the last general election in each of two-thirds of the congressional districts in the state shall be sufficient to propose a law or to order a referendum; signatures from eight percent of the number of legal voters for governor in the last general election in each of two-thirds of the congressional districts in the state shall be sufficient to propose a constitutional amendment; and the number of signatures from legal voters required shall



be calculated based on the total vote for governor at the general election last preceding the filing of any petition. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any law or constitutional amendment referred to voters, either by the legislature or petition, shall be adopted when approved by a majority of the votes cast thereon, and not otherwise. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution or law to the contrary, if there are differing standards for the number of signatures or votes required, a petition will qualify so long as it has sufficient signatures to meet at least one of the signature threshold standards, and the secretary of state will verify the signatures of any petition submitted to the secretary under both standards. The total vote for governor at the general election last preceding the filing of any initiative or referendum petition shall be used to determine the number of legal voters necessary to sign the petition.

#### Section 56.

1. The legislature shall be prohibited from repealing a citizen-initiated law, changing a citizen-initiated law, passing a law similar to one rejected by referendum petition, or proposing to repeal or change a citizen-initiated amendment unless eighty percent of the House and Senate approve a change or send it to a vote of the people, as provided in subsections 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of this section.
2. As of the effective date of this section, the legislature shall be prohibited from repealing any law enacted on or after January 1, 2010 by the people under the initiative power of this Constitution, notwithstanding any provision of this Constitution to the contrary.
3. As of the effective date of this section, the legislature shall be prohibited from amending or superseding any law enacted on or after January 1, 2010, by the people under the initiative power of this Constitution, unless the amending or superseding legislation furthers the purpose of the law and at least eighty percent of the members of each house of the legislature vote to amend such law, notwithstanding any provision of this Constitution to the contrary.
4. As of the effective date of this section, the legislature shall be prohibited from passing any law similar in effect to one rejected on or after January 1, 2010 by the people under the referendum power of this Constitution, notwithstanding any provision of this Constitution to the contrary.
5. Notwithstanding the prohibitions in subsection 2, 3 and 4, as of the effective date of this section, the legislature may refer a proposed law to a vote of the people on a measure which would repeal, amend, or supersede a law enacted by the people under the initiative power on or after January 1, 2010, or on a measure which would enact a law similar in effect to a law rejected by the people by referendum petition or after January 1, 2010, but only so long as at least eighty percent of the members of each house of the legislature, by a roll call of ayes and nays, vote to refer such a measure to the people, notwithstanding section 52(a) of Article III of this Constitution.
6. As of the effective date of this section, the legislature shall be prohibited from referring any proposed constitutional amendment that would repeal or amend or supersede any constitutional amendment adopted on or after January 1, 2010 by the people under the initiative power of this Constitution, unless at least eighty percent of the members of each house of the legislature, by a roll call of ayes and nays, vote to refer such proposed amendment to the people, notwithstanding section 2(a) of Article XII of this Constitution.
7. This section shall not be construed to deprive any member of the legislature of the right to introduce any measure.

#### Section 57.

1. In order to give ample notice to voters of issues that will appear on their ballots, the legislature shall be required to deliver a proposed law or amendment to the secretary of state at least one hundred twenty days before an election can be held on the measure, as provided in subsections 2 and 3 of this section.
2. Elections on any law or constitutional amendment proposed by initiative or referendum petition or referred or proposed by the legislature shall be held as set forth in this Article III and in section 2(b) of Article XII, except that the legislature must deliver laws and proposed amendments which it refers or submits to the people, for approval or rejection, to the secretary of state at least one hundred twenty days before the election on such can be held, an election on a law referred by or constitutional amendment proposed by the legislature shall not be had sooner than one hundred twenty days after such measure or proposal is delivered to the secretary of state notwithstanding section 52(b) of Article III or section 2(b) of Article XII.
3. Notwithstanding the foregoing, for laws or proposed constitutional amendments referred or proposed by the legislature, if the legislature makes an express finding by roll call vote that an election sooner than one hundred twenty days is necessary for the protection of the peace, protection of state or local governmental finances, or another bona fide emergency, then an election may be held sooner than one hundred twenty days after the measure or proposal is delivered to the secretary of state. The express finding shall be subject to de novo judicial review. Any citizen shall have standing to bring an action challenging the express finding and the timing of the election.

Section 58. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the secretary of state shall make a determination on the sufficiency of the petition and issue a certificate of sufficiency or insufficiency for an initiative or referendum petition, not later than 5:00 p.m. on the fourteenth Tuesday prior to the general election. If the secretary of state finds the petition insufficient, the certificate shall state the reasons for the insufficiency.

#### Section 59 Definitions.

1. For purposes of this Article, "citizen-initiated" shall mean placed onto the ballot using the initiative or referendum power reserved to the people in this Constitution.
2. The "legislature" shall mean the general assembly.

3. "Ballot summaries" shall consist of the summary statement and the fiscal note summary.

Section 60. sections 54 through 59 of this Article are self-executing and shall be construed to strongly protect the citizens' powers of initiative and referendum, all political power being vested in the people and founded upon their will only.

Section 61. If any provision of sections 54 through 60 or the application thereof to anyone or to any circumstance is held invalid or unconstitutionally enacted, the remainder of those provisions and the application of such provisions to others or other circumstances shall not be affected thereby.