

It is a class A misdemeanor punishable notwithstanding the provisions of section 560.021 RSMo, to the contrary, for a term of imprisonment not to exceed one year in the county jail or a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars or both, for anyone to sign any initiative petition with any name other than his or her own, or knowingly to sign his or her name more than once for the same measure for the same election, or to sign a petition when such person knows he or she is not a registered voter.

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Page No: \_\_\_\_\_

INITIATIVE PETITION

To the Honorable Denny Hoskins, Secretary of State for the state of Missouri

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 rejection, at the general election to be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2026, and each for himself or herself says: I have personally signed this petition. I am a registered voter of the state of Missouri and \_\_\_\_\_ County (or City of St. Louis), my registered voting address and the name of the city, town or village in which I live are correctly written after my name.

[OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE]

CIRCULATORS AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF MISSOURI, COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_, I, \_\_\_\_\_, 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)
1						
2						
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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: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Affiant (Person obtaining signatures) \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address of Affiant \_\_\_\_\_ Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Affiant \_\_\_\_\_ City, State and Zip Code of Affiant \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Notary \_\_\_\_\_ Address of Notary \_\_\_\_\_ 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 nine new sections to be known as sections 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61 and 62 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. As of the effective date of this section, the legislature shall be prohibited from changing any citizen-initiated law, changing any citizen-initiated amendment, or passing, proposing, or referring any law or constitutional amendment similar in effect to a law rejected by referendum petition, except by a vote of eighty percent of the House and Senate, notwithstanding any provision of law or this Constitution to the contrary.
2. For the purposes of this section, a "citizen-initiated law" is defined to be a law that the people have proposed and enacted by the initiative. For the purposes of this section, a "citizen-initiated amendment" is defined to be any section or article of this Constitution, or any portion thereof, that the people have proposed and enacted by the initiative as a constitutional amendment. For the purposes of this section, "changing" a citizen-initiated law or citizen-initiated amendment means passing, proposing, or referring a law or constitutional amendment which, if enacted, would modify, repeal, supersede, or undermine any part of a citizen-initiated law or citizen-initiated amendment, whether explicitly or by implication. For the purposes of this section, a law "rejected by referendum petition" is a law which has been passed by the legislature then subsequently rejected by the people by way of a referendum ordered by petition. For the purposes of this section, "by a vote of eighty percent of the House and Senate" shall mean at least eighty percent of the members of the House and at least eighty percent of the members of the Senate each separately approve.
3. This section shall be construed to protect laws and constitutional provisions enacted by citizen initiative after January 1, 2018. This section shall be construed to protect against laws similar in effect to those rejected by referendum petition after January 1, 2018.
4. This section shall not be construed to deprive any member of the legislature of the right to introduce any bill or measure, but passage or referral thereof by this legislature is subject to the prohibitions and requirements of this section.

#### 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, subject to subsection 3 of section 59. If the secretary of state finds the petition insufficient, the certificate shall state the reasons for the insufficiency.

#### Section 59.

1. Notwithstanding the signature requirements set forth in sections 50 and 55 of this Article for initiative petitions, and as an alternative to those requirements, it shall be sufficient for a petition proposing an amendment to the Constitution to be signed by 175,000 legal voters in the state, and a petition proposing a law to be signed by 125,000 such voters, so long as both types of petitions are signed by at least 2,500 legal voters in each congressional district in the state.
2. Notwithstanding the signature requirements set forth in sections 52(a) and 55 of this Article for referendum petitions, and as an alternative to those requirements, it shall be sufficient for a referendum petition to be signed by 125,000 legal voters in the state so long as such petition is signed by at least 2,500 legal voters in each congressional district in the state.

3. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution or law to the contrary, for petitions using the signature requirements set forth in this section only, if the secretary of state finds a petition insufficient for lacking a sufficient number of valid signatures needed in any one or more congressional districts, and the number lacking is no more than two percent of the minimum number of valid signatures needed in the applicable congressional districts, then the secretary of state shall notify the proponent of the specific deficiency in each applicable congressional district by or before 5:00 p.m. of the fourteenth Tuesday prior to the general election, and the secretary of state shall accept additional signature pages for the applicable congressional districts for seven additional calendar days from the date of the notice, to be submitted at one time, after which the secretary of state shall promptly review such signature pages and make a final determination and issue a final certificate setting forth whether or not the petition contains a sufficient number of valid signatures to comply with this Constitution.

4. 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. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution or law to the contrary, if there are different standards for the number of signatures or votes required, the lower shall be sufficient.

#### Section 60. 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 61. Sections 54 through 60 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 62. If any provision of sections 54 through 61 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.