

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 3rd 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 _____, _____ being first duly sworn, say (print names of signers)

NAME		DATE Signed	REGISTERED VOTING ADDRESS (Number)(Street), (City, Town Or Village)	ZIP CODE	CONG. DIST.	NAME (Printed or Typed)
NAME (Signature)						
1						
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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 adding nine new sections to be known as Article III, Sections 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, and 62 to read as follows:

Section 54.

Ballot summaries, including summary statements and fiscal note summaries, shall be unbiased, clear, accurate, and easy to understand. Ballot summaries shall not seek to mislead voters. 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.

Section 55.

1. The legislature shall be prohibited from weakening citizens' initiative or referendum powers; no law passed by the legislature and no legislatively-referred constitutional amendment shall weaken citizens' initiative or referendum powers, notwithstanding Sections 2(a) and 2(b) of Article XII of this Constitution, Section 1 of Article III of this Constitution, and any other provision of law or of this Constitution to the contrary. The phrase "weaken citizens' initiative or referendum powers" shall be construed broadly, examples thereof including, but not being limited to, raising signature thresholds; shortening the time allowed for signature collection; narrowing allowable subject matter; imposing additional requirements on petitioners; preventing or delaying judicial revision of misleading ballot titles; prohibiting or nullifying severability clauses in initiated measures; rendering a simple statewide majority of votes cast on the measure insufficient to enact a law or constitutional amendment proposed by citizen initiative, or otherwise impeding or restricting citizens' powers of initiative or referendum.

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 of 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. The prohibitions of this section shall be construed to protect laws and constitutional provisions enacted by citizen initiative after January 1, 2018, including both those enacted before and after the effective date of this section, and to protect referendum petition vetoes after January 1, 2018, including both those before and after the effective date of this section, from action by the legislature on or after the effective date of this section. "Referendum petition vetoes" shall mean when laws passed by the legislature are rejected by the citizens by referendum petition.
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. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or of this Constitution to the contrary, pre-existing signature and vote requirements shall be maintained, as follows: a simple statewide majority of votes cast on the measure by individual legal voters shall be sufficient to enact any law or constitutional amendment proposed by initiative petition; a simple statewide majority of votes cast on the measure by individual legal voters shall be sufficient to reject any law upon which a referendum is ordered by referendum petition; signatures from five percent of the individual legal voters in each of two-thirds of Missouri's congressional districts shall be sufficient to propose a law; signatures from eight percent of the individual legal voters in each of two-thirds of Missouri's congressional districts shall be sufficient to propose a constitutional amendment; signatures from five percent of the individual legal voters in each of two-thirds of Missouri's congressional districts shall be sufficient to order a referendum; and the number of signatures 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 by petition shall be decided when approved or rejected by a majority of the votes cast thereon, and not otherwise.

Section 58. The legislature shall be prohibited from referring a measure to appear on a ballot less than one hundred twenty days before the election, notwithstanding Section 52(b) of Article III or Section 2(b) of Article XII. 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 59. 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 60. If the secretary of state finds the petition insufficient, the certificate shall state the reasons for the insufficiency.

Section 60.

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 each type of petition is 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 61. Sections 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, and 60 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, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, or 61 or the application thereof to anyone or to any circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of those provisions and the application of such provisions to others or other circumstances shall not be affected thereby.