

INITIATIVE PETITION

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

CIRCULATOR'S 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)
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Denny Hoskins
MO. SEC OF STATE

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 six new sections to be known as Article III, Sections 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, and 59 to read as follows:

Section 54. Ballot summaries, including summary statements and fiscal note summaries, shall be clear, unbiased, fair, 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 law or 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. Any law or constitutional amendment that weakens citizens' direct lawmaking power, which is or has been proposed by the legislature after January 1, 2025, is hereby prohibited.

2. 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.

3. 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.

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, unless eighty percent of the House and Senate refer the change to a vote of the people, 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, "unless eighty percent of the House and Senate refer the change to a vote of the people" 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 vote to refer the proposed law or constitutional amendment to voters.

3. The prohibitions of this section shall be construed to protect laws and constitutional provisions enacted by citizen initiative after January 1, 2010, including both those enacted before and after the effective date of this section, and to protect referendum petition vetoes after January 1, 2010, 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, proposal, 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 or of this Constitution 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. Sections 54, 55, 56, and 57 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 59. If any provision of Sections 54, 55, 56, 57, or 58, 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.