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

INITIATIVE PETITION

PM OF STA					
MAY 30					
STATE OF MISSOLIBI COLINTY OF		CIRCULATOR'S AFFIDAVIT	S AFFIDAVIT Sheing first dully sworp say (print names of signers)		
Signature	Date Signed	Registered Voting Address	Zip Code	Cong. District	Printed First and Last Name

Printed Name of Affiant

Signature of Affiant (Person obtaining signatures)

Street Address of Affiant

City, State and Zip Code of Affiant

Signature of Notary

Address of Notary

(Seal)

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 one new Section to be known as Article III, Section 54 to read as follows: Section 54.

- 1. Missouri citizens shall be guaranteed the right to gather signatures for a minimum of three hundred sixty-five days to qualify an initiative for the next possible election after the signatures are filed, as provided in this section and in other sections of this Constitution, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary.
- 2. The Missouri citizen proposing an initiative petition may simultaneously prepare the official ballot summary, which shall be unbiased, clear, fair, accurate, and easily understood, notwithstanding section 2(b) of Article XII of this Constitution and any other provision of law or of this Constitution to the contrary.
- 3. Any voter of this state shall have standing to challenge a ballot title as misleading, or otherwise not unbiased, clear, fair, accurate, and easily understood, within fourteen days after submission of the summary by the citizen, within ten days after approval of a summary statement by the general assembly, or within ten days after certification of a ballot title by the secretary of state for a legislatively referred measure or for an initiative petition if the citizen proposing the petition did not prepare an official ballot summary. Courts shall determine whether the ballot title is misleading and, if so, shall immediately rewrite it to be completely unbiased, clear, fair, accurate, and easily understood, notwithstanding section 2(b) of Article XII or any other provision of law or this Constitution to the contrary. The challenge that the ballot title violates this Constitution shall be filed in the circuit court of Cole County. The supreme court shall have exclusive appellate jurisdiction upon the filing of a notice of appeal within ten days after the judgment has become final.
- 4. The legislature shall be banned from attempting to repeal, change, or supersede any measure passed by citizen initiative petition, unless ninety percent of legislators refer the change to voters, notwithstanding sections 2(a) and 2(b) of Article XII of this Constitution, sections 27, 29, 31, 32, and 52(a) of Article III of this Constitution, and any other provision of law or of this Constitution to the contrary. This subsection shall be interpreted to safeguard laws and constitutional provisions passed by initiative petition before, on, or after the effective date of this section. 5. Laws and legislatively-referred constitutional amendments shall be banned from impeding citizens' initiative or referendum power, 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. For purposes of this subsection, "impede citizens' initiative or referendum power" shall be defined to include weakening citizens' power of initiative, weakening citizens' power of referendum, or weakening both of those powers, whether explicitly or by implication. The term shall be construed broadly and shall include any change making it more difficult for the citizens to reject by referendum acts of the legislature; making it more difficult for the citizens to propose or enact laws or constitutional amendments through the initiative, such as any requirement for passage other than a simple statewide majority of votes cast on the measure by individual legal voters; or making it more difficult for the citizens to accurately understand the contents of ballot measures due to misleading ballot language. In no case shall any such change be made by way of an act or amendment put forward by the legislature. 6. Ballot measures proposed by petition or the legislature shall be decided at general elections unless ninety percent of legislators and the governor approve a special election for the measure, notwithstanding section 52(b) of Article III of this Constitution, section 2(b) of Article XII of this Constitution, and any other provision of law or of this Constitution to the contrary.
- 7. Notwithstanding any provision of law or of this Constitution to the contrary, the people shall retain the power to directly enact laws and amendments proposed by initiative petition and relating to any of the subjects on which the legislature can pass or propose laws and amendments, excluding any subject prohibited by this Constitution as of 2024; a simple majority of votes cast statewide on the measure by individual legal voters shall be sufficient to enact any law or amendment proposed by initiative petition; signatures from five percent of the legal voters in each of two-thirds of Missouri's congressional districts shall be sufficient to propose a law, and signatures from eight percent of the legal voters in each of two-thirds of Missouri's congressional districts shall be sufficient to propose an amendment; 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; the people shall retain the power to order by petition referenda on acts of the legislature; signatures from five percent of the legal voters in each of two-thirds of Missouri's congressional districts shall be sufficient to order such a referendum; 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; and a simple majority of votes cast statewide on a referendum by individual legal voters shall be sufficient to accept or reject the referendum.
- 8. This section is self-executing and shall be construed broadly to protect Missouri citizens' powers of initiative and referendum.
- 9. If any provision of subsections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 of this section 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.