

VOTE "NO" ON ANTI-DEMOCRACY BILLS

**PROTECT THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND RIGHT TO MAKE INITIATIVE PETITIONS WITHOUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY INTERFERENCE**

Several bills are trying to make it more difficult to:

- **Get initiative petitions on the ballot**
- **Pass initiative petitions into law**
- **Voice your opinion with your vote**

These bills illustrate that some Missouri legislators do not value the voice of Missourians despite the fact that legislators are elected to represent and serve us. These bills also disregard the challenges everyday people face during the voting process and devalue hearing from everyone via their vote.



Anti-Democracy Bills that MCE Opposes:

Would make it harder to get initiative petitions on the ballot:

- HJR 18
- HJR 24
- HJR 25
- HJR 43
- HB 703

Would make it harder to pass initiative petitions:

- SJR 5
- SJR 28
- HJR 30

Would limit voting rights:

- SJR 30
 - Would stop alternative voting methods (such as rank-choice voting)
 - Would limit methods of voting
- HJR 19
 - Would make it harder to pass constitutional amendments

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The initiative petition process is already difficult and expensive, and the will of the people should not be further impeded. The initiative petition process gives a voice to all Missourians, and has been used to advance both conservative and liberal issues. Furthermore, the General Assembly has amended the Missouri Constitution many more times than the people, 133 vs. 29, respectively. (1)



FAQs

Q: Why are initiative petitions important?

A: Initiative petitions were designed to give Missourians the right to independently engage in the legislative process in the face of corrupt politicians. Any attempt by politicians to weaken this right is only further proof of its importance.

Q: Why is a higher vote requirement problematic?

A: Even popular petitions could have trouble meeting higher thresholds, which could lead to very few changes in legislation. This would hinder Missourians ability to choose and take action on ways to improve their own lives.

Q: Why shouldn't we be as strict as possible with voting regulations to ensure fair elections?

A: Voter fraud is not a widespread problem, but more voting restrictions have tangible and wide-reaching negative effects on voter turnout. If we truly want to hear everyone's voice, which is the best way to ensure fair elections, we need less voting restrictions, not more.

Sources:

1) Marilyn Mcleod, *Missouri shouldn't make it harder for voters to get petitions on the ballot*, Kansas City Star, February 27, 2023, www.kansascity.com/opinion/readers-opinion/guest-commentary/article272596922.html

PROTECT INITIATIVE PETITIONS AND VOTING RIGHTS!