



**DENNY HOSKINS, CPA**  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF MISSOURI

RECEIVED  
MAR 27 2025  
STATE AUDITORS OFFICE

March 27, 2025

The Honorable Scott Fitzpatrick  
State Auditor  
State Capitol Building  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

RE: Petition approval request from Jamie Howard regarding a proposed constitutional amendment to Article III (2026-036)

Dear Auditor Fitzpatrick:

Enclosed please find an initiative petition sample sheet for a proposal to amend the Missouri Constitution filed by Jamie Howard on March 25, 2025.

We are referring the enclosed petition sample sheet to you for the purposes of preparing a fiscal note and fiscal note summary as required by Section 116.332, RSMo. Section 116.175.2, RSMo requires the state auditor to forward the fiscal note and fiscal note summary to the attorney general within twenty days of receipt of the petition sample sheet.

Thank you for your immediate consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

*Denny Hoskins*

Denny Hoskins

cc: Hon. Andrew Bailey  
Sheri Hoffman  
Claudia Sands

STAPLE  
HERE

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.

**INITIATIVE PETITION**

Page No. \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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2025 MAR 25 AM 8:07

*Denny Hoskins*  
MO. SEC OF STATE

**CIRCULATOR'S AFFIDAVIT**

STATE OF MISSOURI, COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_, I, \_\_\_\_\_, being first duly sworn, say (print names of signers)

	Signature	Date Signed	Registered Voting Address	Zip Code	Cong. District	Printed First and Last Name
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

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 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. \_\_\_\_\_ (Seal)

Printed Name of Affiant \_\_\_\_\_ City, State and Zip Code of Affiant \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Notary \_\_\_\_\_ Address of Notary \_\_\_\_\_

*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. This section shall be known as the "Securing Citizens' Direct Lawmaking Power Amendment."

2. Notwithstanding the legislature's power to propose amendments to this Constitution under sections 2(a) and 2(b) of Article XII of this Constitution and its powers to pass and propose laws under Article III, and notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution to the contrary, the legislature shall be prohibited from weakening the citizens' direct lawmaking power. For the purposes of this section, the term "weakening the citizens' direct lawmaking power" shall be defined to include proposing or passing any law or constitutional amendment which, if enacted, would weaken citizens' power of initiative, weaken citizens' power of referendum, or weaken 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; or making it more difficult for the citizens to accurately understand the contents of ballot measures due to misleading ballot language. Examples of such changes include, but are not limited to, raising signature thresholds; shortening the time allowed for signature collection; narrowing allowable subject matter; imposing additional qualifications or procedural requirements on petitioners; preventing or delaying nonpartisan judicial revision of misleading ballot language; prohibiting or nullifying severability clauses in initiated measures; or raising the vote percentage required to approve a measure at the ballot. In no case shall any such change be made by way of an act or amendment put forward by the legislature. Any statutory or constitutional change which is or has been passed or proposed by the legislature and which makes citizens' direct lawmaking power weaker than it was under the laws and Constitution in place on December 31, 2024, is null and void, and any citizen may challenge it in court.

3. Notwithstanding sections 2(a) and 2(b) of Article XII of this Constitution, sections 27, 29, 32, and 52(a) of Article III of this Constitution, and any other provision of this Constitution to the contrary, the legislature shall be prohibited from changing any citizen-initiated law, changing any citizen-initiated amendment, or passing any law similar to one rejected by referendum petition, except if doing so through a ballot measure approved by eighty percent of the House and Senate. For the purposes of this subsection, a "citizen-initiated law" is defined to be a law that the people have proposed and enacted by the initiative at any time, whether before, on, or after the effective date of this section. For the purposes of this subsection, 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 at any time, whether before, on, or after the effective date of this section. For the purposes of this subsection, "changing" a citizen-initiated law or citizen-initiated amendment means passing or proposing a law or constitutional amendment which, if enacted, would modify, repeal, or supersede any part of a citizen-initiated law or citizen-initiated amendment, whether explicitly or by implication. For the purposes of this subsection, a law "rejected by referendum petition" is a law which is or 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 subsection, a law is "similar to" one rejected by referendum petition if its consequences would be substantially similar to those of the rejected law. For the purposes of this subsection, a measure is "approved by eighty percent of the House and Senate" if at least eighty percent of the members of the House and at least eighty percent of the members of the Senate each separately approve the measure. Any statutory or constitutional change put forward by the legislature which is passed or proposed after the effective date of this section in violation of this subsection is null and void, and any citizen may challenge it in court.

4. Notwithstanding section 52(b) of Article III of this Constitution, section 2(b) of Article XII of this Constitution, and any other provision of this Constitution to the contrary, every statewide ballot measure shall be decided at a general election, except in the event that eighty percent of the House and Senate approve a special election for the measure. For the purposes of this subsection, "eighty percent of the House and Senate approve" means that at least eighty percent of the members of the House and at least eighty percent of the members of the Senate each separately approve.

5. Notwithstanding section 2(b) of Article XII of this Constitution and any other provision of this Constitution to the contrary, all ballot language shall be clear, unbiased, fair, accurate, and easily readable. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "all ballot language" encompasses the summary statement and fiscal note summary of every statewide ballot measure. Any citizen may challenge ballot language under this subsection in court within ten days of its original certification, and such actions shall be placed at the top of the civil docket and shall be resolved as quickly as practicable. If a court finds the ballot language to be in violation of this subsection in any way, the court shall independently write new ballot language based on the text of the proposed measure, in order to ensure that the result maximally satisfies the requirements of this subsection.

6. 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 December 31, 2024. A simple majority of votes cast statewide on the measure 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.

7. The people shall retain the power to order by petition referenda on acts of the legislature (except as to laws necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety, and laws making appropriations for the current expenses of the state government, for the maintenance of state institutions and for the support of public schools). 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.

8. For the purposes of this section, the term "every statewide ballot measure" encompasses all measures put to a statewide vote of the people that are proposed by the legislature or through the citizens' initiative or referendum process, whether changing the laws or changing this Constitution.

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.