

PROTECT MISSOURI'S INITIATIVE PETITION PROCESS OPPOSE HJR 79, SJR 31, AND HB 2079

SUMMARY OF BILLS

If passed, HJR 79, SJR 31, AND HB 2079 would negatively impact the citizen initiative petition process in Missouri. Voters **must** have access to a fair and equitable process of putting policy proposals on our state's ballot. 20+ proposed changes to the initiative petition process will not bring about positive reform, but diminish Missouri's 115-year tradition that voters trust.

UNASKED CHANGES

SJR 31 would make qualifying petitions nearly impossible by increasing the percentage of signatures needed from 8% to 15% per congressional districts. Additionally, **HJR 79 & SJR 31** requires a 2/3 passage, instead of a simple majority vote. **HB 2079** creates an extreme filing fee and creates other "reforms" which will only hinder Missourians ability to be involved in our historic initiative petition process.

Missourians have used the initiative petition process to pass policy by working together across political ideology. The initiative petition process is a beacon of Missouri's representative government. As Gov. Ashcroft said, "It is through the initiative process that those who have no influence with elective representatives may take their cause directly to the people."

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS




The Sierra Club has worked several initiative petition campaigns and knows how difficult it is to gather signatures statewide under the present standard. Additionally, the Sierra Club depends on the initiative petition process to advocate for environmental policy when our legislators did not. Examples include: Construction Work in Progress (1976), Parks and Soil Tax (1996), and Renewable Energy Standard (2008).



HJR 79 was filed by Rep. Henderson and voted out of Elections & Elected Officials Committee to be referred: Rules – Administrative Oversight.

SJR 31 was filed by Senator Onder and to Referred Local Government and Elections Committee.

HB 2079 was filed by Rep. Simmons and referred to Elections & Elected Officials Committee.

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