

Amendment 4: Protecting the Voice of Missouri Citizens

For more than 65 years, MRTA has operated as a grassroots organization built on a simple principle: every voice matters.

MRTA was founded on the belief that ordinary citizens can make a difference when they come together around issues they care about. Whether advocating for public education, retirement security, or stronger communities, our success has never come from wealth, power, or political influence. It has come from people showing up, speaking out, and making their voices heard.

That same principle is at the heart of Missouri's initiative petition process.

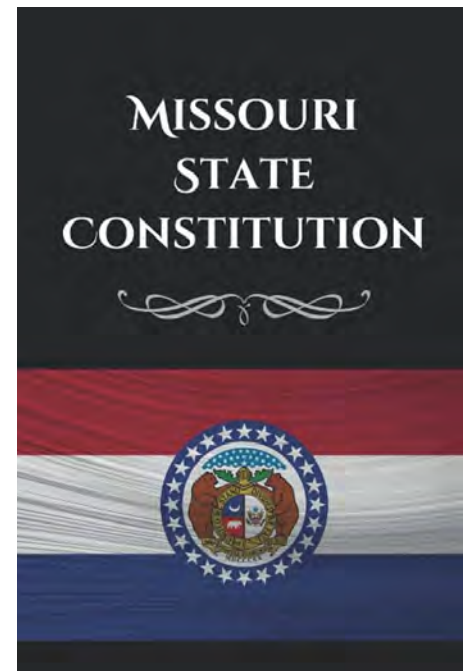
The initiative petition process gives citizens the ability to place issues directly before voters when they believe the legislature has not adequately addressed matters of public concern. Throughout Missouri's history, voters have used this process to make important decisions on issues affecting their families, communities, and future. Regardless of whether we personally agree or disagree with a particular proposal, the process itself provides an important avenue for citizen participation in government.

One of Missouri's most well-known taxpayer protections, the Hancock Amendment, exists today because citizens gathered signatures and took the issue directly to voters. Whether discussing tax limitations, ethics reforms, healthcare access, minimum wage laws, or other issues, the initiative petition process has allowed Missourians to make decisions for themselves. The question before voters on Amendment 4 is not whether they agree with any particular initiative. The question is whether future generations of Missourians should continue to have the same ability to bring issues directly before their fellow citizens.

Amendment 4 would make significant changes to Missouri's initiative petition process. Supporters argue the proposal would add additional safeguards before constitutional amendments can be adopted. Opponents contend it would make it much more difficult for citizens to successfully bring issues before voters and could weaken one of the few tools available for direct citizen involvement in state government.

MRTA's Legislative Committee believes strongly that grassroots advocacy and citizen engagement are essential to a healthy democracy. Our organization exists because members across Missouri have consistently demonstrated that collective action can influence public policy and create positive change.

"The strength of MRTA has never been found in a building, a budget or a title," said MRTA Executive Director Maria Walden. "Our strength has always come from engaged members who speak up and show up. The initiative petition process is built on that same belief: that citizens deserve a direct voice in shaping the future of Missouri."



MRTA Region 8 Legislative Committee Chair Chuck Triplett agreed. "All retired educators were once students," he reflected. "We know what we were taught about the spirit and practices of a democracy. As teachers, secretaries, principals, and staff, we showed our student how that system works. Amendment 4 is the exact opposite of those traditions. It's again time for us to show up for democracy."

As an organization representing thousands of retired educators and school personnel, we understand the value of participation. We encourage all members to become informed about Amendment 4, study the proposal carefully, and most importantly, exercise their right to vote.

Democracy works best when citizens are engaged. Whether through contacting legislators, attending local meetings, participation in advocacy efforts, or casting a ballot, every voice matters.

The strength of MRTA has always been found in its members. The strength of Missouri is found in its citizens.

After reviewing the proposal and its potential impact on citizen participation in government, MRTA opposes Amendment 4 and encourages members to vote NO on Amendment 4 on the August ballot.

As we often remind ourselves, the world is run by those who show up.

Missouri Constitutional Amendment

August 4 Amendment Guide



1

Amendment 1. Renew the Parks and Soil Sales Tax, a long-standing one-tenth-cent sales tax that funds Missouri's state parks, historic sites and soil and water conservation. This is not a new tax.



2

Amendment 2. Requires every county to elect its assessor, even though most Missouri counties already do. The measure would primarily affect the small number of charter counties that currently appoint trained professional assessors. Supporters believe elected assessors increase accountability to voters, while opponents worry it could add politics to what has traditionally been a technical and professional role.



4

Amendment 4: Changes the requirements for citizen-led constitutional amendments by requiring support across all congressional districts instead of a simple statewide majority vote. This amendment will make the initiative petition process more difficult by allowing a smaller portion of the state to block measures that may receive majority support statewide. **VOTE NO!**



5

Amendment 5: Expands lawmakers' ability to increase sales and use tax without direct voter approval on those changes as part of a broader effort to eliminate state income tax. This could shift more of a tax burden onto consumers, including our retirees and working families, by paving the way for a taxes on services and everyday expenses that have not been taxed, such as rent, daycare, health, gas and other household necessities. **VOTE NO!**

Please share and take with you when you vote.

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