

Missouri Amendment 4

August 4, 2026 Ballot Issue | Issues Brief



QUICK FACTS



Type:
Constitutional
Amendment



On ballot:
August 4, 2026



Tax impact:
No increase or
decrease in taxes
(per official fair
ballot language)



Important note:

This proposal changes only the constitutional initiative petition process. The statutory initiative petition process remains the same.



DID YOU KNOW?

Missouri's current constitution was adopted in 1945 and has been amended **126 times**.



WHAT IT IS

Amendment 4 would change Missouri's rules for citizen-initiated constitutional amendments. Today, these measures pass with a simple statewide majority. If Amendment 4 passes, a citizen-initiated constitutional amendment would need both: (1) a statewide majority vote, and (2) a majority vote in each of Missouri's 8 congressional districts. The measure would also make the full text of initiative petitions available to voters with the ballot.



WHY SUPPORTERS BACK IT

- Supporters say major constitutional changes should show broad support across the entire state — not just a statewide simple majority.
- They argue the amendment gives both urban and rural voters a stronger voice in the process.
- Supporters also say it helps protect Missouri's Constitution from well-funded outside interests and strengthens election integrity.



ORGANIZATIONS PUBLICLY SUPPORTING

Examples of organizations that have publicly supported Amendment 4 include:

- Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Missouri Farm Bureau



WHY OPPONENTS ARE AGAINST IT

- Opponents say it would make citizen-led constitutional amendments much harder to pass.
- They argue a statewide majority could be blocked if even one congressional district votes no, allowing a minority of voters to stop a measure.
- Opponents also say it weakens Missouri's initiative petition process and reduces voters' ability to act directly when lawmakers do not.



ORGANIZATIONS PUBLICLY OPPOSING

Examples of organizations or campaigns publicly opposing passing Amendment 4 include:

- Respect Missouri Voters Campaign
- Missouri REALTORS® / Protect Majority Rule
- Examples of endorsing partners shown by Respect Missouri Voters include the Missouri State Conference of the NAACP, Missouri NEA, and Sierra Club Missouri Chapter.

WHY THIS DEBATE MATTERS



PURPOSE OF A STATE CONSTITUTION

- Establishes the framework of government.
- Protects fundamental rights and limits government power.
- Addresses broad, foundational principles intended to provide long-term stability.



EXAMPLES OFTEN CITED AS BETTER SUITED FOR STATUTE

Supporters of Amendment 4 often point to prior initiative petition amendments such as:

- Medical marijuana (2018) and adult-use marijuana (2022): detailed licensing, regulation, and policy provisions.
- Medicaid expansion (2020): health program eligibility and administration.
- Clean Missouri (2018): redistricting, campaign finance, lobbying, and ethics rules.
- Sales tax on services ban (2016): a tax policy issue many argue should remain in statute.

These examples are included for discussion and are often cited by supporters of Amendment 4.

