

## Protect the Power of the People: Stop Attacks on Missouri's Citizen Initiative Petition Process

[HJR 43](#) - Rep. Henderson, R-117 (Bonne Terre)

*Missouri's citizen initiative petition process is a tool of direct democracy.*

*When lawmakers ignore the will of the people, the initiative petition process empowers Missourians to gather signatures from folks across the state and put a measure directly on the ballot for every voter to have a say.*

- Since 1907, Missourians have made their voices heard through the citizen initiative petition process.
- Voters have used this direct democracy tool to change policy when lawmakers refuse to act. Recent initiative petition campaigns have given Missouri voters a direct say on:
  - Raising the minimum wage,
  - Expanding Medicaid and extend affordable health care coverage to more than 275,000 Missourians,
  - Legalizing medical marijuana,
  - Legalizing adult-use marijuana, and
  - Adopting ethics reform, including campaign contribution limits, for legislators.
- A majority is 50% plus one, not 60%, and not 2/3. Measures passed by a majority — as is currently the case — reflect the will of the people. Raising the threshold to 60%, as HJR 43 would do, directly undermines the will of the people.
- Missouri's existing process is rigorous — lawmakers should not make it harder for the public to make decisions.
- Missourians across the political spectrum have come together & used this direct democracy tool to change policy when lawmakers refuse to act. This power belongs to the people — **and politicians have no place trying to change the rules to take that power away.**
- **Lawmakers should oppose any change to Missouri's citizen initiative petition process that makes it more difficult for Missourians to come together and engage in direct democracy.**