

Suppressing the Right to Vote

MAGA Extremists in the Missouri Legislature introduced legislation to create the Office of Election Crimes and Security. Senate Bill 350 would create the Office of Election Crimes and Security within the office of the Secretary of State to prosecute voters. Making an office to combat the myth of voter fraud instead attacks voters and intimidates people from voting. Senate Bill 350 died in committee. [[MO SB 350](#), Second Read and Referred Senate Local Government and Elections Committee, 2/23/2023]

MAGA Extremists in the Missouri Legislature introduced a Voter ID Constitutional Amendment. In 2022, HJR 94 was introduced to require all voters to present a government-issued photo ID and would require voter approval to go into effect. Voter photo ID laws are ineffective as means of combating voter fraud, but their main impact is promoting voter suppression. HJR 94 passed the House, but died in a Senate committee. [[MO HJR 94](#), died in committee, 3/31/2022]

MAGA Extremists in the Missouri Legislature introduced legislation to increase the threshold for signatories needed for a people-led initiative to be placed on the ballot. In 2022, HJR 65 was introduced to increase signature requirements for ballot initiatives. Initiative petitions proposing amendments to the constitution would require signatures by eight percent of the legal voters in each of the congressional districts in the state, and petitions proposing laws shall be signed by five percent of such voters. By raising the threshold of signature requirements, it makes it harder for people to participate in the political process. HJR 65 died in committee. [[MO HJR 65](#), Referred: Rules - Administrative Oversight, 2/14/2022]

MAGA Extremists passed legislation to block Missourians from amending the state constitution, expressly to keep residents from getting their preferred policies on reproductive rights. Conservatives, worried that voters will restore abortion rights, increase the minimum wage, and enact other popular policies, have sought to eliminate Missourians' ability to amend the state constitution by a simple majority vote. Republicans in both houses passed [SJR74](#), which would increase that threshold to both a simple majority of votes and the majority of Missouri's eight congressional districts. The initiative petition process has been used in prior elections to pass constitutional amendments like Medicaid expansion and legalizing recreational marijuana. House Speaker Dean Plocher (R) acknowledged that SJR74 is intended to stymie Missourians' efforts to establish their preferred abortion rights laws. [KCUR, [4/26/24](#)]

MAGA Extremists' anti-democratic SJR74 includes provisions that serve no purpose other than to confuse voters into supporting it: Since SJR74 is itself a constitutional amendment that would require voter approval, House Republicans attempted to make it more appealing to voters by including provisions prohibiting non-citizens from voting and barring foreign interference with the initiative petition process -- two things that are already illegal, and unrelated to the main content of the initiative. The Senate version of the resolution does not contain the "ballot candy" provisions as a result of Democratic opposition; the two houses must now reconcile the differences. [KCUR, [4/26/24](#)]