

The Committee to Protect Petition Rights

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The Honorable Robin Carnahan Missouri Secretary of State
Missouri Information Center
Jefferson City, MO 65101

04/30/2012
(Hand delivered)

RE: Initiative Petition for changes to 116 RSMo relating to initiative and referendum petitions

Dear Secretary Carnahan,

Enclosed please find a petition seeking changes to chapter 116 RSMo relating to the initiative and referendum petition process to be known as the “The Petition Rights Protection Act” .

Note that this petition seeks to place a measure on the November **2012** general election ballot. Please also note that there are no constitutional or statutory constraints limiting an initiative petition seeking statutory changes to one election cycle like the restraints for petitions seeking constitutional changes.

The changes this initiative seeks to make to chapter 116 are as follows:

1. Make respect for the voters the primary consideration in the petition processing procedure.
 1. Prevent mistakes by those other than the voter from disenfranchising that voter who signed a petition.
 2. A petition will no longer be considered one entity in which properly organized and filed signatures can be invalidated because of problems with other signatures.
 3. Permit the voter, or the petition proponent, to have the option of recovering otherwise valid signatures found to be invalid solely because of their placement on the wrong petition sheets or because the circulator's registration form was inadequate.
2. Addresses fraudulent practices in the petition process.
 1. Establish the crime and penalty for defrauding voters by misrepresenting a petition.
 2. Establish the crime and penalty for maliciously intimidating or obstructing a petition signer.
3. Streamlines Ballot Title litigation.
 1. Facilitates the involvement of a petition proponent when the Ballot Title for his petition is challenged in court.
 2. Requires the courts to rule on challenges to Ballot Titles within a total of 3 ½ months from the end of the 10 day challenge period.
 3. Requires the Secretary of State to certify a court ordered change to a Ballot Title within 24 hours of notice from the court.

We suggest the following summary statement:

Shall Missouri initiative and referendum petition law be amended to:

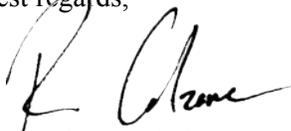
- Prevent mistakes by someone other than the voter from invalidating the signature of that voter who signs a petition;
- Establish the crime and penalty for defrauding voters by misrepresenting a petition;
- Establish the crime and penalty for maliciously intimidating or obstructing a petition signer; and
- Require the courts to rule on challenges to Ballot Titles within a total of 3 ½ months.

The primary contact for this Petition is:

Ron Calzone
33867 Highway E
Dixon, MO 65459
(573) 759-3585

Feel free to call with any questions you might have.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Calzone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Ron Calzone, chairman
The Committee to Protect Petition Rights