



Don't Fall for Sham Early Voting!

Amendment 6 Restricts Ability to Have Effective Early Voting in Missouri

In response to a popular proposed citizen's early voting initiative, Missouri lawmakers passed a resolution that would constitutionally limit early voting opportunities for Missouri voters.

Amendment 6, which will be on the November 2014 ballot, would amend the Missouri Constitution to impose strict limits for early voting. There are currently no limits on the legislature's ability to provide early voting.

The ballot title reads: "Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to permit voting in person or by mail for a period of six business days prior to and including the Wednesday before the Election Day in general election, but only if the legislature and the governor appropriate and disburse funds to pay for the increased costs of such voting?"

Amendment 6 would impose strict constitutional limits on early voting in Missouri:

- **Early Voting Not Guaranteed** – The measure would not allow early voting unless the legislature appropriates funding. This could cost \$2 million in start-up costs, and \$100,000 each election. If the legislature fails to appropriate funds, the Constitution would prohibit early voting in Missouri.
- **Six Days** – Limits early voting only to six days. The legislature would never be able to provide for longer periods of early voting unless the Constitution is amended. The majority of states with early voting provide for 10-30 days. Six days fails to provide sufficient time.
- **Business Hours Only** – Restricts early voting only to business hours, and prohibits the legislature or local election jurisdictions from allowing early voting during times that voters need it most.
- **No Sundays** – Explicitly prevents early voting on Sundays – the day most preferred by early voters. Studies show that Sunday is the day most preferred by minority voters and used in effective "Souls to the Polls" turnout efforts. Sunday voting has resulted in significant increase in voter participation in other states.
- **No Local Elections** - Early voting would not be in effect for local, special district or municipal elections.
- **Locations** – The resolution doesn't address how early voting sites will be designated and located, an important factor in ensuring voter access.

This is sham early voting that fails to provide the kind of access that has proven to be most effective in states with early voting. Even worse, it permanently enshrines these restrictions in our Constitution, prohibiting lawmakers from ever providing effective early voting opportunities unless the Constitution is amended. We should not settle for weak early voting that doesn't address the needs of Missouri voters.

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