



September 4th, 2025

House Committee on Elections
State Capitol
201 W Capitol Ave.
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Community Health Commission of Missouri opposition to HJR 3 – Creates the “Protect Missouri Voters” amendment.

Chair Reedy and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Community Health Commission of Missouri (CHCM), I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to House Joint Resolution 3. CHCM is a statewide organization committed to strengthening communities and health systems so that all Missourians can thrive.

Our opposition to this legislation is rooted in Missouri’s longstanding constitutional framework. The initiative petition process is not only a nationally recognized tool for civic engagement – it is also enshrined in Missouri’s Constitution as a safeguard for citizen voice. For more than a century, this process has allowed Missourians to address issues directly when they feel the government has not adequately responded.

HJR 3 would alter the balance of democracy by imposing heightened supermajority voting thresholds. While framed as reform, this change in practice would make it harder for Missourians to exercise their constitutional rights, granting a minority of voters or select districts the power to override the will of the majority. Such changes weaken public confidence in government and undermine the principle that every Missourian’s vote carries equal weight.

Missouri has a proud tradition of civic participation. The initiative petition process has produced policies reflecting local priorities, strengthened accountability, and fostered civic engagement across communities. Instead of erecting new barriers, we should preserve and improve this process by ensuring it remains open, fair and accessible to the people it was designed to serve.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to reject HJR 3 and to maintain Missouri’s initiative petition process as a vital tool for citizen-driven problem solving. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out to me at rgibson@chcmmissouri.org if you have any questions or would like additional information.

In health,

Robert Gibson, MS, MPH
Director of Policy and Advocacy
Community Health Commission of Missouri