



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT AMENDMENT 6

KEY TAKEAWAYS

In Missouri today, lawmakers elected by the people can fix errors and bad policies passed through the initiative petition process. If Amendment 6 passes, they won't be able to. They could only send a fix back to voters, and only if 80% of both chambers agree: 28 of 34 senators and 131 of 163 representatives.

That bar is higher than the two-thirds needed to override a governor's veto, and just 7 senators could block any fix.

Amendment 6 is a way to empower special interests over elected officials and the voters. Out-of-state interest groups could flood Missouri with harmful policies that are very hard to fix.

1. WHAT WOULD AMENDMENT 6 DO?

Amendment 6 is dangerous. If it passes, it will be a disaster for Missouri. It would effectively strip the elected legislature of its power to address laws passed by initiative petition or rejected by referendum. Lawmakers could not change or repeal laws passed by initiative petition, nor could they pass any laws similar to one rejected by referendum, without approval from at least 80% of both chambers, and even then they could only send the change back to voters. That bar is so high that errors and bad policies would stay on the books. The ballot title calls the amendment an expansion of the petition process "by making it a fundamental right," but what it really does is empower special interests over elected officials and the voters.

2. WHAT WOULD THE 80% REQUIREMENT MEAN IN PRACTICE?

Eighty percent of the Missouri House means at least 131 of its 163 members, and 80% of the Senate means at least 28 of its 34 members. That is far more than a simple majority. It is even higher than the two-thirds needed to override a governor's veto, which is 23 senators and 109 representatives. In full chambers, just 7 senators or 33 representatives could block any fix, so correcting an initiative that turned out to be flawed would be nearly impossible.

3. WHY DOES REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT MATTER HERE?

Missouri is a republic. Voters elect people to make laws and decisions, and if those officials are not doing a good job, voters can elect different people. Amendment 6 would shift more lawmaking power to the initiative petition process and away from the elected legislature. Our system of government has many flaws, but it remains the best option for anyone interested in limited government. As the saying goes, direct democracy—which if passed Amendment 6 would enact—is two wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for dinner.

4. ARE INITIATIVE PETITIONS WELL SUITED TO TECHNICAL POLICY?

Initiative petitions can carry pages of inscrutable legal jargon, and even a good ballot summary cannot accurately convey their full meaning and operation to voters. Technical decisions are often best made by elected officials, who can revisit them as problems appear, rather than in a ballot measure.

**Talk to a
Policy Expert**

DAVID STOKES

DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL POLICY

DAVID.STOKES@SHOWMEINSTITUTE.ORG