



May 9th, 2022

Dear Lawmakers,

As proud veterans of our nation's military, we've dedicated our lives to protecting this country's freedoms. We've fought to preserve and protect the rights of our fellow Americans. We've sacrificed to realize the promise of liberty and justice for all.

For the nearly-500,000 veterans who live in Missouri, the freedom to vote is among our most sacred—it's a right and responsibility held by all of us. Now, just as pride in our country inspired many of us to serve, pride in our sacred right to vote demands we speak up to defend our fellow Americans here at home.

A new bill under consideration in the Missouri legislature would throw up barriers to the ballot box and threaten the freedom to vote all across our state. With so few days remaining in the 2022 legislative session, we strongly urge our elected representatives to vote them down.

That bill, HJR 79, is an unnecessary and gravely concerning proposal for Missouri elections. Focused on our state's hugely-popular initiative petition process, the bill unwisely raises the bar for citizens' petitions to make it to the ballot. That increase raises an already-high threshold even further so that the signatures of an astonishing 615,000 Missourians would be required for an initiative petition to even make it to the ballot for a vote. When you compare that with the requirement for candidates—in which an independent running for statewide office only needs 10,000 signatures to make it onto the ballot—it's clear that something isn't right.

As veterans, we didn't serve our country to see our fellow Americans' liberty threatened here at home. We served to see those freedoms shine—and what better way to shine than free, fair and accessible citizen petitions?

It's no accident that so many veterans call the Show Me State home. We're a proud group who values honesty and integrity from our government. For the future of Missouri's elections, and for the freedoms that generations have fought and died for, we strongly urge our lawmakers to vote down HJR 79. Stand with Missouri veterans today and reject this unnecessary and concerning proposal and protect our freedom to be heard at the ballot box—just as we always have.

Sincerely,

Eric H. Bronner

Founder | Chief Operating Officer
Veterans for Political Innovation