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March 20, 2017

OPINION LETTER NO. 188-2017

The Honorable John R. Ashcroft
Missouri Secretary of State
James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center
600 West Main Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Secretary Ashcroft:

This opinion letter responds to your request dated March 8, 2017, for our review under § 116.334, RSMo, of a proposed summary statement prepared for the petition submitted by Winston Apple regarding a proposed constitutional amendment to amend Article VIII of the Missouri Constitution (2018-149). The proposed summary statement is as follows:

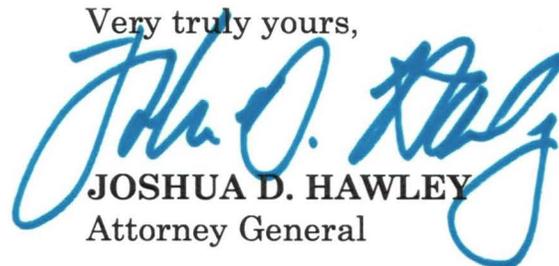
Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to change voting in general elections for the offices of United States Senator, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, and State Auditor to allow voters to rank candidates in order of preference for each office; eliminate the lowest ranked candidates and redistribute their votes based on number of votes and voters' rankings until a candidate receives at least 50% plus one vote to win; and resolve ties with a random mathematical process?

Pursuant to § 116.334, RSMo, we approve the legal content and form of the proposed statement. Because our review of the statement is mandated by statute, no action that we take with respect to such review should be

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construed as an endorsement of the petition, nor as the expression of any view regarding the objectives of its proponents.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John D. Hawley", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "H".

JOSHUA D. HAWLEY
Attorney General