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March 20, 2017

OPINION LETTER NO. 190-2017

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:

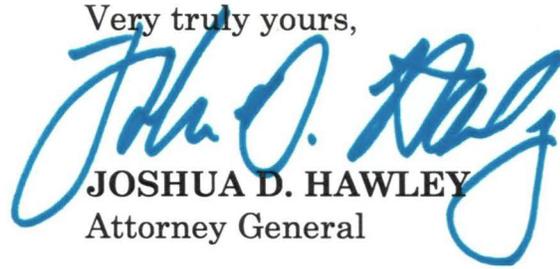
This opinion letter responds to your request dated March 8, 2017, for our review under § 116.334, RSMo, of a proposed summary statement prepared for the petition submitted by Winston Apple regarding a proposed constitutional amendment to amend Article III, Sections 2, 5, & 7 of the Missouri Constitution, version 2 (2018-151). The proposed summary statement is as follows:

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to change how senate and house districts are reapportioned and reduce the number of state representatives from 163 to 5 elected from 2 districts within each of the 8 congressional districts; senators from 34 to 5 from each of the 8 congressional districts; require house and senate candidates to be selected by rank-choice voting, allowing voters to rank candidates in order of preference; tabulate votes and determine election winners through elimination rounds; and to fill open senate and house seats with the highest ranking unelected candidate in the election?

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

Very truly yours,



**JOSHUA D. HAWLEY**  
Attorney General