



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI
ERIC SCHMITT
August 30, 2019

OPINION LETTER NO. 181-2019

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 August 22, 2019, 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 of the Missouri Constitution (2020-102). The proposed summary statement is as follows:

Do you want to amend Missouri's Constitution regarding state legislators as follows:

- reduce the number of state representatives from 163 to 160 (20 representing each of the eight congressional districts);
- instead of a district, state senators will represent the entire state;
- primary elections result in an ordered list of candidates for each office;
- at the general election, a voter casts a vote for one political party's ordered list of candidates;
- the proportion of votes received per political party determines the candidates elected from each party's list, in the order on the list; and
- fill vacancies with the highest-ranking unelected candidate?

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

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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Eric S. Schmitt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "E".

ERIC S. SCHMITT
Attorney General