



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI
ERIC SCHMITT

December 26, 2019

OPINION LETTER NO. 279-2019

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 December 16, 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, (2020-140). The proposed summary statement is 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;
- eliminate the primary election for state legislators;
- at the general election, each voter casts three to 10 ranked votes from a list of candidates;
- the ranked votes determine the number of seats awarded to a political party (or independent candidate), and the elected candidate(s) from the applicable party; and
- fill vacancies with the same party's 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 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 "E" and "S".

ERIC S. SCHMITT
Attorney General