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February 7, 2019

OPINION LETTER NO. 42-2019

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 January 28, 2019, for our review under § 116.334, RSMo, of a proposed summary statement prepared for the petition submitted by Damien Johnson regarding a proposed constitutional amendment to amend Article III of the Missouri Constitution (2020-025). The proposed summary statement is as follows:

- Do you want to amend the Missouri Constitution to:
- prohibit any changes to election laws without voter approval;
  - prohibit a filing fee for proposed initiative petitions;
  - prohibit requiring an initiative petition circular (signature gatherer) from being a Missouri resident or a registered voter;
  - allow signature gatherers to be paid per signature, by the hour or any way agreed to; and
  - require the secretary of state's office to establish and operate a web-based application that allows people to sign initiative petitions electronically?

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

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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 "S" at the end.

**ERIC S. SCHMITT**  
Attorney General