

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI ANDREW BAILEY

November 7, 2023

OPINION LETTER NO. 414-2023

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 October 27, 2023, for our review under § 116.332, RSMo of the sufficiency as to form of an initiative petition submitted by JoAnn Franklin, Article XV, 2024-167.

We conclude that the petition must be rejected for at least the following reasons:

Failure to comply with Section 116.040 because the required information in that statute is not "substantially the same form of each page" of the initiative petition submission, in that the circulator's affidavit along with the notarization affirmation were submitted on more than one page.

Because of our rejection of the form of the petition for the reasons stated above, we have not reviewed the petition to determine whether additional deficiencies exist. Pursuant to § 116.332.4, RSMo, the Secretary of State is authorized to review this opinion and "make a final decision as to the approval or rejection of the form of the petition."

Very truly yours,

ANDREW BAILEY Attorney General