



## Missouri House of Representatives

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**March 7, 2024**

**CONTACT: State Rep. Dave Hinman**  
**573-751-2167**  
[Dave.Hinman@House.Mo.Gov](mailto:Dave.Hinman@House.Mo.Gov)

### House Passes HB 1604 to Modify Filing Time for Declarations of Candidacy

**Jefferson City, Mo.** – The Missouri House has signed off on legislation seeking to enhance the electoral processes in the Show-Me State by streamlining the filing time for declarations of candidacy. HB 1604, sponsored by State Representative Dave Hinman, received widespread bipartisan support and recognition for its potential to improve accessibility and efficiency in the electoral system, passing with a vote of 144-0.

Currently, the filing time for declarations of candidacy for offices in political subdivisions or special districts not otherwise specified in law or charter spans from the 17th Tuesday prior to the election through the 14th Tuesday prior to the election. However, with the passing of HB 1604, this critical filing period will now commence one week earlier, starting from the 16th Tuesday prior to the election and concluding on the 13th Tuesday prior to the election.

One of the notable provisions of HB 1604 is its consideration for State or Federal holidays. The bill explicitly specifies that if the 13th Tuesday prior to the election falls on a State or Federal holiday, the closing filing date shall be extended to the next business day, ensuring that candidates have ample opportunity to participate in the democratic process without any undue restrictions.

"This legislation goes a long way in fostering a fair and accessible electoral system," Hinman, R-O'Fallon, said. "By adjusting the filing time for declarations of candidacy and accounting for holidays, we're empowering more individuals to engage in the democratic process and contribute to the vibrant tapestry of our local communities."

"By fine-tuning the filing time for declarations of candidacy and considering holiday constraints, we're not just streamlining processes; we're ensuring that aspiring candidates have every opportunity to participate in shaping our communities' futures," House Speaker Dean Plocher, R-Des Peres, said.

The passage of HB 1604 reflects a collaborative effort among lawmakers to enact meaningful reforms that prioritize inclusivity and efficiency in electoral procedures. With bipartisan support, the bill exemplifies a shared commitment to upholding the integrity of democratic principles while adapting to the evolving needs of our electorate.

The bill now proceeds to the Senate for further consideration.

*Representative Dave Hinman, a Republican, represents part of St. Charles County (District 103) in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was elected to his first two-year term in November 2022. For more information, please contact Rep. Hinman's office at 573-751-2176 or via email at [Dave.Hinman@house.mo.gov](mailto:Dave.Hinman@house.mo.gov).*

-###-