AN ACT


Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:


116.030. The following shall be substantially the form of each page of 1. Signature sheets for referendum petitions on any law passed by the general assembly of the state of Missouri:

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EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in bold-face type in the above bill is proposed language.
sheet, contain spaces for the congressional district, the local election authority, and page numbering.

2. Above the signature section, the signature sheet shall state:

PETITION FOR REFERENDUM

(Official ballot title)

To the Honorable ______, Secretary of State for the state of Missouri:

We, the undersigned, registered voters of the state of Missouri [and ______ County (or City of St. Louis)], respectfully order that the Senate (or House) Bill No. _____ entitled (title of law), passed by the ______ general assembly of the state of Missouri, at the ______ regular (or special) session of the ______ general assembly, shall be referred to the voters of the state of Missouri, for their approval or rejection, at the general election to be held on the _____ day of ______, ______, unless the general assembly shall designate another date, and each for himself or herself says: I have personally signed this petition; I am a registered voter of the state of Missouri [and ______ County (or City of St. Louis)] (local election authority); my registered voting address and the name of the city, town or village in which I live are correctly written after my name.

(Official Ballot title) ______

Warning: It is a class A misdemeanor, punishable, notwithstanding the provisions of 558.002, RSMo, to the contrary, for a term of imprisonment not to exceed one year in the county jail, a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars, or both, for anyone to sign any referendum petition with any name other than his or her own, or to knowingly sign his or her name more than once for the same measure for the same election, or to sign a petition if the person knows he or she is not a registered voter.

3. The section for signatures shall consist of numbered lines containing space for the following, in an order prescribed by the secretary of state:

(1) Signature;

(2) Printed name, including first, middle initial, last;

(3) Registered voting address, including street number and name, city, town, or village, and zip code; and

(4) Date signed.

4. Below the signature section, the back of the page, or the face of the next page, the signature sheet shall state, in substantially the following form:

CIRCULATOR'S AFFIDAVIT

State Of Missouri,

County and/or City Of ______

[1, _______, being first duly sworn, say (print or type names of signers)]
I do solemnly swear or affirm under penalty of perjury, I am at least eighteen years of age; each person signed this sheet of the foregoing petition, and each of them signed his or her name thereto in my presence; I believe that each has stated his or her name, registered voting address and city, town or village correctly, and that each signer is a registered voter of the state of Missouri [and ______ County. FURTHERMORE, I HEREBY SWEAR OR AFFIRM UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT ALL STATEMENTS MADE BY ME ARE TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT I HAVE NEVER BEEN CONVICTED OF, FOUND GUILTY OF, OR PLED GUILTY TO ANY OFFENSE INVOLVING FORGERY]. I have never been convicted of, found guilty of, or pled guilty to any offense involving perjury.

[Lam at least 18 years of age.] I do ______ do not ______ (check one) expect to be paid for circulating this petition. If paid, list the payer ______

Signature of [Affiant] Circulator
(Person obtaining signatures)

(Printed Name of [Affiant] Circulator)

Address of [Affiant] Circulator

Subscribed and sworn to before me this ______ day of ______, A.D. ______

Signature of Notary

Address of Notary

Notary Public (Seal)

[My commission expires______]

5. If this form is followed substantially and the requirements of [section] sections 116.045, 116.050, and [section] 116.080 are met, it shall be sufficient, disregarding clerical and merely technical errors.

116.040. [The following shall be substantially the form of each page of each petition] 1.

Signature sheets for any law or amendment to the Constitution of the state of Missouri proposed by the initiative[.]
HB 290

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4 County ______
5 Page No. ______

It is a class A misdemeanor punishable, notwithstanding the provisions of section 560.021, RSMo, to the contrary, for a term of imprisonment not to exceed one year in the county jail or a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars or both, for anyone to sign any initiative petition with any name other than his or her own, or knowingly to sign his or her name more than once for the same measure for the same election, or to sign a petition when such person knows he or she is not a registered voter shall, in the upper right-hand corner of the front of the sheet, contain spaces for the congressional district, local election authority, and page numbering.

2. Above the signature section, the signature sheet shall state:

INITIATIVE PETITION

(Official ballot title)

To the Honorable ______, Secretary of State for the state of Missouri:

We, the undersigned, registered voters of the state of Missouri [and______ County (or City of St. Louis)], respectfully order that the following proposed law (or amendment to the constitution) shall be submitted to the voters of the state of Missouri, for their approval or rejection, at the general election to be held on the _____ day of ______, ______, and each for himself or herself says: I have personally signed this petition; I am a registered voter of the state of Missouri [and______ County (or City of St. Louis)] (local election authority); my registered voting address and the name of the city, town or village in which I live are correctly written after my name.

(Official Ballot title) [______]

Warning: It is a class A misdemeanor, punishable, notwithstanding the provisions of 558.002, RSMo, to the contrary, for a term of imprisonment not to exceed one year in the county jail, a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars, or both, for anyone to sign any referendum petition with any name other than his or her own, or to knowingly sign his or her name more than once for the same measure for the same election, or to sign a petition if the person knows he or she is not a registered voter.

3. The section for signatures shall consist of numbered lines containing space for the following, in an order prescribed by the secretary of state:

(1) Signature;
(2) Printed name, including first, middle initial, last;
(3) Registered voting address, including street number and name, city, town, or village, zip code; and
(4) Date signed.
4. Below the signature section, the back of the page, or the front of the next page, the signature sheet shall state, in substantially the following form:

CIRCULATOR'S AFFIDAVIT
State Of Missouri,
County and/or City Of ______

[I, ______, being first duly sworn, say (print or type names of signers)]

NAME DATE SIGNED REGISTERED VOTING ADDRESS ZIP

CODE CONGR. DIST. NAME

(Signature) (Street) (City, Typed)
(Town or Village)

(Here follow numbered lines for signers)

I do solemnly swear or affirm under penalty of perjury: I am at least eighteen years of age, each person signed this sheet of the foregoing petition, and each of them signed his or her name thereto in my presence; I believe that each has stated his or her name, registered voting address and city, town or village correctly, and that each signer is a registered voter of the state of Missouri [and ______ County.]

FURTHERMORE, I HEREBY SWEAR OR AFFIRM UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT ALL STATEMENTS MADE BY ME ARE TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT I HAVE NEVER BEEN CONVICTED OF, FOUND GUILTY OF, OR PLED GUILTY TO ANY OFFENSE INVOLVING FORGERY]. I have never been convicted of, found guilty of, or pled guilty to any offense involving perjury.

I am at least 18 years of age.] I do ______ do not ______ (check one) expect to be paid for circulating this petition. If paid, list the payer ______

Signature of [Affiant] Circulator
(Person obtaining signatures)

(Printed Name of [Affiant] Circulator)

Address of [Affiant] Circulator

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, A.D. ______

Signature of Notary

Address of Notary

Notary Public (Seal)

[My commission expires ______]
5. If this form is followed substantially and the requirements of [section] sections 116.045, 116.050, and [section] 116.080 are met, it shall be sufficient, disregarding clerical and merely technical errors.

116.045. Petition signatures shall be on a petition sheet prescribed by the secretary of state, which shall include all of the information and statements set forth in section 116.030 or 116.040, as applicable, and comply with section 116.050. The form shall be made available in electronic format for printing and circulating petitions.

116.050. 1. Initiative and referendum petitions filed under the provisions of this chapter shall consist of pages of a uniform size. Each page, excluding the text of the measure, shall be no larger than eight and one-half by fourteen inches. The text of the measure shall be double spaced, in a font no smaller than twelve point Times New Roman, and have a top, bottom, left, and right margin of no less than one inch. Each [page] signature sheet of an initiative petition shall be attached to or shall contain a full and correct text of the proposed measure. Each [page] signature sheet of a referendum petition shall be attached to or shall contain a full and correct text of the measure on which the referendum is sought.

2. The secretary of state shall collect an initiative and referendum petition filing fee of five hundred dollars for each petition sample sheet filed. An additional filing fee of twenty-five dollars shall be collected for each page of text of the measure in excess of ten pages. The filing fee shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the secretary of state's petition publications fund established under section 116.270. The filing fee shall be refunded from the fund to the person designated as the recipient of notices under section 116.332 if the initiative or referendum petition is certified under section 116.150. The secretary of state shall reject any petition sample sheet that is not accompanied by the required fee.

3. The full and correct text of all initiative and referendum petition measures shall:

   (1) Contain all matter which is to be deleted included in its proper place enclosed in brackets and all new matter shown underlined;

   (2) Include all sections of existing law or of the constitution which would be repealed by the measure; and

   (3) Otherwise conform to the provisions of Article III, Section 28 and Article III, Section 50 of the Constitution and those of this chapter.

4. The full and correct text of all initiative petition measures shall not purport to:

   (1) Declare any federal statute, regulation, executive order, or court decisions to be void or in violation of the United States Constitution;

   (2) Amend any federal law or the United States Constitution; or
(3) Accomplish an act that the United States Constitution requires to be accomplished by the general assembly.

116.060. Any registered voter of the state of Missouri may sign initiative and referendum petitions. However, each signature sheet of an initiative or referendum petition shall contain signatures of voters from only one local election authority and one congressional district. Each petition signature sheet filed with the secretary of state shall have the congressional district and the local election authority where the signers are registered designated in the upper right-hand corner of the front of each sheet. Signatures of voters from election authorities other than the one designated by the circulator in the upper right-hand corner on the front of a given sheet shall not be counted as valid. Signatures of voters from congressional districts other than the one designated by the circulator in the upper right-hand corner on the front of a given sheet shall not be counted as valid.

116.080. 1. Each petition circulator shall be at least eighteen years of age and registered with the secretary of state. Signatures collected by any circulator who has not registered with the secretary of state pursuant to this chapter on or before 5:00 p.m. on the final day for filing petitions with the secretary of state shall not be counted. A petition circulator shall be deemed registered at the time such circulator delivers a signed fully complete and sign a circulator's affidavit pursuant to section 116.030, with respect to a referendum petition, or section 116.040, with respect to an initiative petition, on every signature sheet delivered to the office of the secretary of state. No person shall qualify as a petition circulator who has been convicted of, found guilty of, or pled guilty to an offense involving forgery under the laws of this state or an offense under the laws of any other jurisdiction if that offense would be considered forgery under the laws of this state.

2. Each petition circulator shall subscribe and swear to the proper affidavit on each petition signature sheet such circulator submits before a notary public commissioned in Missouri. When notarizing a circulator's signature, a notary public shall sign his or her official signature and affix his or her official seal to the affidavit only if the circulator personally appears before the notary and subscribes and swears to the affidavit in his or her presence.

3. Any circulator who falsely swears to a circulator's affidavit knowing it to be false is guilty of a class A misdemeanor punishable, notwithstanding the provisions of section 558.002 to the contrary, for a term of imprisonment not to exceed one year in the county jail or a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars or both.

116.090. 1. Any person who commits any of the following actions is guilty of the crime of petition signature fraud:
(1) Signs any name other than his or her own to any petition, or who knowingly signs his or her name more than once for the same measure for the same election, or who knows he or she is not at the time of signing or circulating the same a Missouri registered voter and a resident of this state; or

(2) Intentionally submits petition signature sheets with the knowledge that the person whose name appears on the signature sheet did not actually sign the petition; or

(3) Causes a voter to sign a petition other than the one the voter intended to sign; or

(4) Forges or falsifies signatures; or

(5) Knowingly accepts or offers money or anything of value to another person in exchange for a signature on a petition.

2. Any person who knowingly causes a petition circulator's signatures to be submitted for counting, and who either knows that such circulator has violated subsection 1 of this section or, after receiving notice of facts indicating that such person may have violated subsection 1 of this section, causes the signatures to be submitted with reckless indifference as to whether such circulator has complied with subsection 1 of this section, shall also be deemed to have committed the crime of petition signature fraud.

3. A person who violates subsection 1 or 2 of this section, shall, upon conviction thereof, be guilty of a class A misdemeanor punishable, notwithstanding the provisions of section 558.002 to the contrary, by a term of imprisonment not to exceed one year in the county jail or a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars or both.

4. Any person employed by or serving as an election authority, that has reasonable cause to suspect a person has committed petition signature fraud, shall immediately report or cause a report to be made to the appropriate prosecuting authorities. Failure to so report or cause a report to be made shall be a class A misdemeanor.

116.100. 1. The secretary of state shall not accept any referendum petition submitted later than 5:00 p.m. on the final day for filing referendum petitions. The secretary of state shall not accept any initiative petition submitted later than 5:00 p.m. on the final day for filing initiative petitions. All pages shall be submitted at one time. When an initiative or referendum petition is submitted to the secretary of state, the signature [pages] sheets shall be in order of congressional district and, within each congressional district, in order by local election authority and numbered sequentially by county, except in counties that include multiple congressional districts, the signatures may be ordered and numbered using an alternate numbering scheme approved in writing by the secretary of state prior to submission of the petition local election authority. Any petition that is not submitted in accordance with this section, disregarding clerical and merely technical errors, shall be rejected as insufficient. After verifying the count of signature [pages] sheets, the secretary of state shall issue a receipt
indicating the number of [pages] signature sheets presented from each [county] local election authority within each congressional district. When a person submits a petition he or she shall designate to the secretary of state the name and the address of the person to whom any notices shall be sent under sections 116.140 and 116.180.

2. If any page of an initiative or referendum petition is marked, under section 116.030 or 116.040, that the circulator expects to be paid for circulating the petition, the secretary of state shall collect, at the time of submission of the petition, a fee in an amount equal to forty cents per signature based on the minimum number of signatures required by Article III, Section 50 of the Constitution of Missouri. The fee shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the secretary of state's petition signature verification fund established under section 116.274. The secretary of state shall not accept any petitions that are not accompanied by the required fee.

116.110. Any voter who has signed an initiative or referendum petition may withdraw his or her signature from that petition by submitting to the secretary of state, before the petition is filed with the secretary of state, a sworn statement requesting that his or her signature be withdrawn and affirming the name of the petition signed, the name the voter used when signing the petition, the address of the voter and the county of residence. It is a class A misdemeanor punishable, notwithstanding the provisions of section [560.021] 558.002 to the contrary, for a term of imprisonment not to exceed one year in the county jail or a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars or both, to knowingly file a false withdrawal statement with the secretary of state.

116.120. 1. When an initiative or referendum petition is submitted to the secretary of state, he or she shall examine the petition to determine whether it complies with the Constitution of Missouri and with this chapter. Signatures on petition pages that have been collected by any person who is not properly registered with the secretary of state as a circulator has not signed and completed the circulator's affidavit shall not be counted as valid. Signatures on petition pages with a circulator affidavit that is not notarized shall not be counted as valid. Signatures on petition pages that do not have the official ballot title affixed to the page shall not be counted as valid.

2. If there are not enough signatures properly filed for a congressional district in order to meet the threshold needed to find a petition sufficient in a given congressional district, the secretary of state does not need to verify whether the signers are registered voters.

3. The secretary of state may verify the signatures on the petition by use of random sampling. The random sample of signatures to be verified shall be drawn in such a manner that every signature properly filed with the secretary of state shall be given an equal opportunity to
be included in the sample. The process for establishing the random sample and determining the statistically valid result shall be established by the secretary of state. Such a random sampling shall include an examination of five percent of the signatures.

[2-] 4. If the random sample verification establishes that the number of valid signatures is less than ninety percent of the number of qualified voters needed to find the petition sufficient in a congressional district, the petition shall be deemed to have failed to qualify in that district. In finding a petition insufficient, the secretary of state does not need to verify all congressional districts on each petition submitted if verification of only one or more districts establishes the petition as insufficient.

[3-] 5. If the random sample verification establishes that the number of valid signatures total more than one hundred ten percent of the number of qualified voters needed to find the petition sufficient in a congressional district, the petition shall be deemed to qualify in that district.

[4-] 6. If the random sampling shows the number of valid signatures within a congressional district is within ninety to one hundred ten percent of the number of signatures of qualified voters needed to declare the petition sufficient in that district, the secretary of state shall order the examination and verification of each signature filed.

116.130. 1. The secretary of state may send copies of petition pages to election authorities to verify that the persons whose names are listed as signers to the petition are registered voters. Such verification may either be of each signature or by random sampling as provided in section 116.120, as the secretary shall direct. If copies of the petition pages are sent to an election authority for verification, such copies shall be sent pursuant to the following schedule:

(1) Copies of all pages from not less than one petition shall be received in the office of the election authority not later than two weeks after the petition is filed in the office of secretary of state;

(2) Copies of all pages of a total of three petitions shall be received in the office of the election authority not later than three weeks after the petition is filed in the office of the secretary of state;

(3) If more than three petitions are filed, all copies of petition pages, including those petitions selected for verification by random sample pursuant to section 116.120, shall be received in the office of the election authority not later than the fourth week after the petition is filed in the office of the secretary of state.

Each election authority shall check the signatures against voter registration records in the election authority's jurisdiction, but the election authority shall count as valid only the signatures of
persons registered as voters in the [county named in the circulator's affidavit] local election authority and congressional district designated in the upper right-hand corner of the page. Signatures shall not be counted as valid if they have been struck through or crossed out. **Signatures not in black or blue ink shall be counted as invalid without verification.**

2. If the election authority is requested to verify the petition by random sampling, such verification shall be completed and certified not later than thirty days from the date that the election authority receives the petition from the secretary of state. If the election authority is to verify each signature, such verification **shall** be completed, certified and delivered to the secretary of state by 5:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday in July prior to the election, or in the event of complete verification of signatures after a failed random sample, full verification shall be completed, certified and delivered to the secretary of state by 5:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday in July or by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday of the fifth week after receipt of the signatures by the local election authority, whichever is later.

3. [If the election authority or the secretary of state determines that the congressional district number written after the signature of any voter is not the congressional district of which the voter is a resident, the election authority or the secretary of state shall correct the congressional district number on the petition page. Failure of a voter to give the voter's correct congressional district number shall not by itself be grounds for not counting the voter's signature.]

4. The election authority shall return the copies of the petition pages to the secretary of state with annotations regarding any invalid or questionable signatures which the election authority has been asked to check by the secretary of state. The election authority shall verify the number of pages received for that county, and also certify the total number of valid signatures of voters from each congressional district which the election authority has been asked to check by the secretary of state.

5. The secretary of state is authorized to adopt rules to ensure uniform, complete, and accurate checking of petition signatures either by actual count or random sampling. No rule or portion of a rule promulgated pursuant to this section shall become effective unless it has been promulgated pursuant to the provisions of chapter 536.

6. After a period of three years from the time of submission of the petitions to the secretary of state, the secretary of state, if the secretary determines that retention of such petitions is no longer necessary, may destroy such petitions.

116.160. 1. If the general assembly adopts a joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment or a bill without a fiscal note summary, which is to be referred to a vote of the people, after receipt of such resolution or bill the secretary of state shall promptly forward the resolution or bill to the state auditor. If the general assembly adopts a joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment or a bill without an official summary statement, which is to be
referred to a vote of the people, within twenty days after receipt of the resolution or bill, the
secretary of state shall prepare and transmit to the attorney general a summary statement of the
measure as the proposed summary statement. The secretary of state may seek the advice of the
legislator who introduced the constitutional amendment or bill and the speaker of the house or
the president pro tem of the legislative chamber that originated the measure. The summary
statement may be distinct from the legislative title of the proposed constitutional amendment or
bill. The attorney general shall within ten days approve the legal content and form of the
proposed statement.

2. The official summary statement shall contain no more than one hundred fifty words. The
explanation shall be a true and impartial statement of the purposes of the
proposed measure in language neither intentionally argumentative nor likely to create prejudice
either for or against the proposed measure.

116.230. 1. The secretary of state shall prepare sample ballots in the following form.

2. The top of the ballot shall read:

"OFFICIAL BALLOT STATE OF MISSOURI"

3. When constitutional amendments are submitted, the first heading shall read:

"CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS"

There shall follow the numbers assigned under section 116.210 the official ballot titles prepared
Constitutional amendments proposed by the general assembly shall be designated as "Proposed
by the general assembly". Constitutional amendments proposed by initiative petition shall be
designated "Proposed by initiative petition". Constitutional amendments proposed by
constitutional convention shall be designated as "Proposed by constitutional convention".

4. When statutory measures are submitted, the next heading shall read:

"STATUTORY MEASURES"

There shall follow the letters assigned under section 116.220, the official ballot titles prepared
Statutory initiative measures shall be designated "Proposed by initiative petition". Referendum
measures shall be designated "Referendum ordered by petition".

5. Immediately following the official ballot title, the words "Shall the measure
summarized be approved?" shall appear with the options to vote "YES" or "NO".
116.270. 1. There is hereby created a "Secretary of State's Petition Publications Fund" which shall consist of moneys collected under section 116.050. The state treasurer shall be the custodian of the fund and, in accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, may approve disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and moneys in the fund shall be used only by the secretary of state to make refunds under section 116.050 and to pay printing, publication, and other expenses incurred in submitting statewide ballot measures to the voters.

2. The secretary of state shall certify to the commissioner of administration all valid claims for payment from the publications fund. On receiving the certified claims, the commissioner of administration shall issue warrants on the state treasurer payable to each individual out of the publications fund. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080, to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund.

3. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.

116.274. 1. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Secretary of State's Signature Verification Fund", which shall consist of moneys collected under section 116.100. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and moneys in the fund shall be used solely by the secretary of state for the purpose of making payments to local election authorities that have verified signatures for one or more petitions in the applicable two-year petitions cycle under section 116.130. Payments shall be calculated based on each local election authority's pro rata share of all signatures actually verified under section 116.130 for a petition, regardless of the outcome of the signature verification. The payments shall be made after the secretary has certified the petition as sufficient or insufficient under section 116.150. A local election authority's obligation to verify signatures under section 116.130 shall not depend upon receipt of payments under this subsection.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080, to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund.

3. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.

116.332. 1. Before a constitutional amendment petition, a statutory initiative petition, or a referendum petition may be circulated for signatures, a sample sheet shall be
submitted to the secretary of state in the form in which it will be circulated. Sample initiative petition sheets shall be filed no earlier than twelve weeks following a general election. When a person submits a sample sheet of a petition he or she shall designate to the secretary of state the name and address of the person to whom any notices shall be sent pursuant to sections 116.140 and 116.180 and, if a committee or person, except the individual submitting the sample sheet, is funding any portion of the drafting or submitting of the sample sheet, the person submitting the sample sheet shall submit a copy of the filed statement of committee organization required under subsection 5 of section 130.021 showing the date the statement was filed. The secretary of state shall refer a copy of the petition sheet to the attorney general for approval and to the state auditor for purposes of preparing a fiscal note and fiscal note summary. The secretary of state and attorney general must each review the petition for sufficiency as to form compliance with section 116.050, Article III, Sections 50, 52(a), and 53 of the Constitution of Missouri, and approve or reject the form of the petition, stating the reasons for rejection, if any.

2. Within two business days of receipt of any such sample sheet, the office of the secretary of state shall conspicuously post on its website the text of the proposed measure, a disclaimer stating that such text may not constitute the full and correct text as required under section 116.050, and the name of the person or organization submitting the sample sheet. The secretary of state's failure to comply with such posting shall be considered a violation of chapter 610 and subject to the penalties provided under subsection 3 of section 610.027. The posting shall be removed within three days of either the withdrawal of the petition under section 116.115 or the rejection for any reason of the petition.

3. Upon receipt of a petition from the office of the secretary of state, the attorney general shall examine the petition as to form and determine whether it complies with section 116.050, Article III, Sections 50, 52(a), and 53 of the Constitution of Missouri. If the petition is rejected as to form, the attorney general shall forward his or her comments to the secretary of state within ten days after receipt of the petition by the attorney general. If the petition is approved as to form, the attorney general shall forward his or her approval as to form to the secretary of state within ten days after receipt of the petition by the attorney general.

4. The secretary of state shall review the comments and statements of the attorney general as to form and make a final decision as to the approval or rejection of the form of the petition. The secretary of state shall send written notice to the person who submitted the petition sheet of the approval within fifteen days after submission of the petition sheet. The secretary of state shall send written notice if the petition has been rejected, together with reasons for rejection, within fifteen days after submission of the petition sheet.
116.334. 1. If the petition [form] is approved under section 116.332, the secretary of state shall make a copy of the sample petition available on the secretary of state's website. For a period of fifteen days after the petition is approved [as to form] under section 116.332, the secretary of state shall accept public comments regarding the proposed measure and provide copies of such comments upon request. Within twenty-three days of receipt of such approval, the secretary of state shall prepare and transmit to the attorney general a summary statement of the measure which shall be a concise statement not exceeding one hundred fifty words. This statement shall [be in the form of a question using] use language neither intentionally argumentative nor likely to create prejudice either for or against the proposed measure. The attorney general shall within ten days approve the legal content and form of the proposed statement.

2. Signatures obtained prior to the date the official ballot title is certified by the secretary of state shall not be counted. If a court orders a change to the official ballot title under subsection 4 of section 116.190, all signatures gathered before such change occurred shall be invalidated, regardless of whether those signatures were gathered on petition pages that displayed what was previously the official ballot title as certified by the secretary of state.

3. Signatures for statutory initiative petitions shall be filed not later than six months prior to the general election during which the petition's ballot measure is submitted for a vote, and shall also be collected not earlier than the day after the day upon which the previous general election was held.