



ACT For Missouri
506 N Maguire Street,
Warrensburg, MO 64093
(573) 227-8772
info@act4mo.org
www.act4mo.org

SJR 10

Senate Joint Resolution No. 10 (SJR 10), introduced in the Missouri Senate, proposes significant changes to the process of amending the state's constitution. This resolution aims to safeguard the Missouri Constitution by making it more difficult to alter and ensuring that only certain voters can influence such changes. By introducing stricter approval requirements and defining voter eligibility, SJR 10 seeks to preserve the integrity and stability of Missouri's foundational legal document. Below, we explore how these changes protect the constitution, with references to the specific sections of the bill where the key information is located.

Stricter Approval Requirements for Amendments

One of the primary ways SJR 10 protects the Missouri Constitution is by raising the bar for approving constitutional amendments. Currently, amendments proposed by the general assembly or through initiative petitions require only a simple majority of votes statewide to pass. SJR 10 changes this process significantly. Under the ****proposed section 2(b)****, found on pages 1 and 2 of the resolution, an amendment must now secure:

- A majority of the votes cast statewide, and
- A majority of votes in more than half of the state house of representatives districts.

This dual requirement ensures that amendments cannot pass based solely on support from densely populated urban areas; they must also have broad geographical support across Missouri's diverse regions. This change is detailed in section 2(b), which states, "if a majority of the votes cast thereon statewide and also a majority of votes cast thereon in each of more than half of the state house of representatives districts are in favor of any amendment, the same shall take effect" (page 2).

Similarly, for amendments proposed by a constitutional convention, SJR 10 applies the same stringent criteria. The ****proposed section 3(c)****, located on pages 2 and 3, requires that such amendments also receive a majority of votes statewide and in more than half of the house districts to be adopted. This is outlined where the text reads, "Upon the approval of the constitution or constitutional amendments by a majority of the votes cast thereon statewide and also a majority of votes cast thereon in each of more than half of the state house of representatives districts" (page 3).

By requiring broader consensus, these provisions protect the Missouri Constitution from amendments that might reflect narrow or regional interests rather than the will of the state

as a whole. This added layer of approval makes it harder to change the constitution, reinforcing its stability.

Limiting Voter Eligibility to Citizens and Legal Residents

Another key protection offered by SJR 10 is its restriction on who can vote on constitutional amendments. The **proposed section 2(c)**, found on page 2, introduces a new rule: “No person shall be eligible to vote on any measure submitted to the people that amends, repeals, or replaces this constitution... unless such person is a legal resident of the state of Missouri and a citizen of the United States of America.” This change ensures that only individuals with a clear, long-term stake in Missouri—legal residents who are U.S. citizens—can influence changes to the state’s highest legal document.

This provision protects the constitution by preventing non-citizens or non-residents from affecting its amendment process, thereby safeguarding Missouri’s governance from external or transient influences. By tying eligibility to citizenship and residency, SJR 10 reinforces the idea that the constitution should reflect the decisions of those most directly governed by it.

How These Changes Work Together

Collectively, these two major changes—stricter approval requirements and limited voter eligibility—fortify the Missouri Constitution in complementary ways:

Broader Support Required: The dual majority requirement (statewide and across house districts) ensures that amendments have widespread support, preventing hasty or poorly considered changes that might destabilize the constitution.

Citizen-Driven Decisions: Restricting voting to legal residents who are U.S. citizens guarantees that only those with a vested interest in Missouri’s future can shape its constitutional framework.

Together, these measures make the Constitution more resilient to amendments that lack broad consensus, or that could be influenced by individuals without a strong connection to the state.

Implementation and Context

If SJR 10 is approved by Missouri voters, these amendments would take effect thirty days after the election, as noted in both sections 2(b) and 3(c). The resolution itself will be submitted to voters at the next general election in November 2026 or at a special election called by the governor, as specified on page 1. The official ballot summary, found in **Section B** on page 3, succinctly captures these changes, asking voters to consider amending the constitution to “specify that only legal residents of Missouri who are citizens of the United States may vote on any change to the state constitution” and to “require for ratification both a majority of votes statewide and also a majority of votes in more than half the state house districts.”

Conclusion

SJR 10 represents a deliberate effort to protect the Missouri Constitution by making it harder to amend and ensuring that only committed citizens can participate in the process. By requiring amendments to gain approval both statewide and across a majority of House districts and by limiting voting to legal resident citizens, the resolution aims to maintain the constitution's integrity and reflect the will of Missourians broadly and deeply rooted in the state. These changes, if enacted, would mark a significant shift toward greater stability and citizen-driven governance in Missouri.

Key Information Locations in the Bill:

- Approval requirements for amendments proposed by the general assembly or initiative: *Proposed section 2(b), pages 1-2.*
- Voter eligibility requirements: *Proposed section 2(c), page 2.*
- Approval requirements for amendments from a constitutional convention: *Proposed section 3(c), pages 2-3.*