

House Concurrent Resolution No. 37

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SHAUL (113).

1615H.021

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, the framers of the Constitution of the United States of America intended
2 that the Congress of the United States of America should be "dependent on the people alone"
3 (James Madison, Federalist 52); and
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5 **WHEREAS**, that dependency has evolved from a dependency on the people alone to a
6 dependency on powerful special interests, through campaigns or third-party groups, that have
7 created a fundamental imbalance in our representative democracy; and
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9 **WHEREAS**, Americans across the political spectrum agree that elections in the United
10 States of America should be free from the disproportional influence of special interests and fair
11 enough that any citizen can be elected into office; and
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13 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the State of Missouri states "that all political power is
14 vested in and derived from the people; that all government of right originates from the people,
15 is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole" and the people
16 have the exclusive right to alter their constitutions of government whenever they deem it
17 necessary (Article I, Sections 1 & 3); and
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19 **WHEREAS**, Article V of the United States Constitution requires Congress to call a
20 convention for proposing amendments to the federal Constitution on the application of two-thirds
21 of the legislatures of the several states; and
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23 **WHEREAS**, the Missouri General Assembly perceives the need for an amendments
24 convention in order to propose an amendment to the federal Constitution that will permanently
25 protect free and fair elections in America by ensuring balance, integrity, and transparency to our
26 national system of campaign finance, and desires that said convention be limited to that purpose;
27 and
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29 **WHEREAS**, a national convention would give us an opportunity to come together, as
30 a nation, to discuss solutions on how to ensure the integrity of our elections, and renew the
31 American people's trust in government; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, Article V clearly states that any amendment, whether proposed by Congress
34 or by convention, must be ratified by three-fourths of the states, ensuring that only the most
35 reasonable proposals with widespread support become part of our Constitution; and

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37 **WHEREAS**, the State of Missouri desires that the delegates to said convention shall be
38 comprised equally of individuals currently elected to state and local office, or be selected by
39 election, in each Congressional district for the purpose of serving as delegates, though all
40 individuals elected or appointed to federal office, now or in the past, be prohibited from serving
41 as delegates to the convention, and intends to retain the ability to enforce the responsibility and
42 conduct of its delegates within the limits expressed herein; and

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44 **WHEREAS**, the State of Missouri intends that this be a continuing application
45 considered together with applications calling for a convention passed in the 2013-2014 Vermont
46 legislature as R454, the 2013-2014 California legislature as Resolution Chapter 77, the 98th
47 Illinois General Assembly as SJR 42, the 2014-2015 New Jersey legislature as SCR 132, the
48 2015-2016 Rhode Island legislature as HR 7670 and SR 2589, and all other passed, pending, and
49 future applications until such time as two-thirds of the several states have applied for a
50 convention for a similar purpose and said convention is convened by Congress:

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52 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the Missouri Senate,
53 One-hundredth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives
54 concurring therein, hereby apply to the United States Congress, under the provisions of Article
55 V of the United States Constitution for the calling of a convention of the states for the exclusive
56 and limited purpose of proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution that will
57 permanently protect fair elections as described herein by ensuring balance, integrity and
58 transparency to our national system of campaign finance, as soon as two-thirds of the legislatures
59 of the several states have applied for a convention for a similar purpose; and

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61 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
62 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
63 President of the United States; the Vice President of the United States in his capacity as presiding
64 officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,

65 the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore
66 of the United States Senate, to each Senator and Representative from Missouri in the Congress
67 of the United States with the respectful request that the full and complete text of this resolution
68 be printed in the Congressional Record, to the presiding officers of each legislative body of each
69 of the several states, requesting the cooperation of the states in issuing an application compelling
70 Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments pursuant to Article V of the U.S.
71 Constitution.

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