

# LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup> OF MISSOURI

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## **LWV Legislative Bulletin** **January 27, 2020**

*LWV members are encouraged to personally communicate, as individual voters (not as LWV members), with their legislators on the various legislative bills. Previous issues of the Legislative Bulletin can be found at this link: <https://lwvmissouri.org/legislative-bulletin/>*

### **Voter ID Legislation is Back**

This information is shared from Denise Lieberman, The Advancement Project:

In the wake of this month's Missouri Supreme Court ruling invalidating part of Missouri's voter ID law, legislators have wasted no time trying to make the law stricter and leave out thousands of registered voters.

A hearing was held on January 22 before the House Elections and Elected Officials Committee on HB1600, which would, among other things, eliminate "Option 2" (non-photo) IDs, as well as the critical advance notice requirements imposed by the original legislation (and that is the subject of current litigation), and re-write the affidavit that the Missouri Supreme Court last week struck as "misleading and contradictory."

By eliminating non-photo IDs, this measure would attempt to reinstate a strict voter ID requirement (similar to one that was found unconstitutional in *Weinschenk v. State*, 203 S.W.3d 201 (Mo. 2006)). It would require voters to show a non-expired state issued photo ID to vote or cast a provisional ballot, that would only be counted if the voter returned with photo ID or if the voter's signature on the provisional ballot envelope matches the signature on their voter registration.

No action has been taken yet been taken by the committee. Please consider sending an email to members of the Committee. Tell lawmakers to oppose discriminatory and unconstitutional photo ID requirements to vote in Missouri!

Tell members of the committee to VOTE NO on HB1600:

Send your emails to members of the committee at:

[Dan.Shaul@house.mo.gov](mailto:Dan.Shaul@house.mo.gov)

[Peggy.McGaugh@house.mo.gov](mailto:Peggy.McGaugh@house.mo.gov)

[Judy.Morgan@house.mo.gov](mailto:Judy.Morgan@house.mo.gov)

[John.Simmons@house.mo.gov](mailto:John.Simmons@house.mo.gov)

[Dan.Stacy@house.mo.gov](mailto:Dan.Stacy@house.mo.gov)

[Cheri.Toalson-Reisch@house.mo.gov](mailto:Cheri.Toalson-Reisch@house.mo.gov)

[Kevin.Windhamjr@house.mo.gov](mailto:Kevin.Windhamjr@house.mo.gov)

The bill is available at: <https://house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills201/hlrbillspdf/3088H.01I.pdf>

## **Bills Moving to Challenge Clean Missouri**

From the Clean Missouri Campaign website:

“National anti-gerrymandering experts joined Missouri reformers in condemning SJR38, HJR101, and HJR76, proposals that would roll back redistricting reforms passed overwhelmingly by Missouri voters in 2018 — and put new language into our constitution to allow lobbyists and political appointees to gerrymander maps in 2021.

The three proposed constitutional amendments would:

- Overturn the will of 1.4 million Missourians who supported the Clean Missouri Amendment
- Allow lobbyists and partisan political appointees to rig maps for their own interests in secretive backrooms.
- Allow communities to be split up by political appointees
- Remove the nonpartisan independence added to the state’s map-drawing process.
- Dramatically weaken race equity standards.

“SJR38, HJR101, and HJR76 would move Missouri in the wrong direction right before new districts are drawn in 2021. Like last year’s proposal, these changes would make the redistricting process easier to rig by removing independence and protections designed to deliver fairness,” said Yuri Rudensky, Redistricting Counsel at the Brennan Center for Justice. “These aren’t reform because the public stands to gain nothing.”

The purpose of the bill is to introduce a change to Amendment 1-Clean Missouri which was passed by 62% of the electorate in the election of November 2018, which will cause gerrymandering of legislative districts.”

**SJR38 was passed by the Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions and Ethics Committee on January 22. It may come to the Senator floor on Wednesday.**

**This information came to us late: HJR101 and HJR75 will have a hearing on January 27 at 2:00 pm in the General Laws Committee in the House Hearing Room 6.**

The General Laws Committee (and its members) can be found at this link to all the House committees: <https://www.house.mo.gov/Committees.aspx?cluster=true>

The members include: Rep. Dean Plocher (chair), Jered Taylor, Peter Meredith, Chuck Basye, Jon Carpenter, Mary Elizabeth Coleman, Travis Fitzwater, Ron Hicks, Tracy McCreery, Jonathan Patterson, Wes Rogers, Nick Schroer, Jeff Shawan,

Here is the link for the legislator contacts: [House Member Contact Information](#)

For more information on the proposed bills, see <https://legiscan.com>

*This issue will continue to require everyone’s vigilant efforts for this entire legislative term.*

**Please be sure to read the letter on the next page:**

## Fair voting maps in Missouri are in jeopardy

Here is the text of a letter that was written by Marge Bramer, president of the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri and just published in the *Springfield News-Leader*:

“Missouri voters have spoken in one clear and unified voice. Our citizens want voting maps that are fair to all. We overwhelmingly passed Amendment 1 in 2018 to assure that. But Missouri legislators are now attempting to gut our decision.

Known as Clean Missouri, Amendment 1 ensures that neither political party gets an unfair advantage when district maps are drawn.

Why should we care about fair maps? The districts in our state reflect political power. They can determine which party gains a majority, then which issues important to you are made priorities and which are ignored.

Most Missourians believe election results should broadly reflect popular support. That is, parties should be represented in the General Assembly in about the same percentage as their share of votes statewide. In November 2018, 51% of citizens voted for the Republican U.S. Senate candidate, repeating almost exactly the results in the November 2016 statewide races for governor and U.S. Senate. You would expect these percentages to be mirrored in the General Assembly. Instead, one political party holds supermajorities, 70 percent, in both the Missouri Senate and the House of Representatives. Gerrymandering helped cause this, and it’s a problem for both political parties. Our state, our citizens, deserve better.

Many pressing issues face Missouri. Amendment 1 is not one of them. There is no groundswell, no public outcry demanding a return to the old system. The only outcry is coming from legislators focused on returning Missouri to a time when maps were drawn in back rooms, out of the public eye. Back then, lobbyists and unaccountable politicians held the power. With Amendment 1, that power is with the people.

Do you wonder why lawmakers are working at a frantic pace, pushing plans to overturn Amendment 1 to the top of their agenda? That may be because this is their last chance before the 2020 Census. Redistricting happens every 10 years, based on census counts. These lawmakers want to throw out Amendment 1 before giving it a single chance.

**Clean Missouri was a great victory for the people. To finish the job, we must loudly and clearly tell Missouri lawmakers to honor our vote. Please contact your state senator and representative today. Urge them to defend Amendment 1 from those who are trying to destroy the protections it gives Missourians.**

**Your vote counted. Act now to safeguard that vote.”**