

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 61

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SCHNELTING.

3117S.01I

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

## JOINT RESOLUTION

Submitting to the qualified voters of Missouri, an amendment to article VIII of the Constitution of Missouri, by adding thereto one new section relating to elections, with penalty provisions.

*Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring therein:*

That at the next general election to be held in the  
2 state of Missouri, on Tuesday next following the first Monday  
3 in November, 2026, or at a special election to be called by  
4 the governor for that purpose, there is hereby submitted to  
5 the qualified voters of this state, for adoption or  
6 rejection, the following amendment to article VIII of the  
7 Constitution of the state of Missouri:

Section A. Article VIII, Constitution of Missouri, is  
2 amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as  
3 section 12, to read as follows:

**Section 12. 1. This section shall be known as the  
2 "Securing Missouri's Future from Foreign Interference in  
3 Elections Amendment".**

**2. The people of the state of Missouri hereby declare  
5 that it is the public policy of this state to secure the  
6 future of Missouri from foreign interference in elections,  
7 political campaigns, state sovereignty, and governance, and  
8 find that:**

**(1) President George Washington, in his Farewell  
10 Address to the American People of the United States in 1796,**

11 warned of foreign powers which "practice the arts of  
12 seduction, to mislead public opinion ... Against the  
13 insidious wiles of foreign influence ... a free people ought  
14 to be constantly awake, since history and experience prove  
15 that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of  
16 republican government".

17 (2) President John Adams, in his inaugural speech to  
18 the American people in 1797, warned of being "unfaithful to  
19 ourselves if we should ever lose sight of the danger to our  
20 liberties if anything partial or extraneous should infect  
21 the purity of our free, fair, virtuous, and independent  
22 elections". President Adams noted specifically that through  
23 interference "by foreign nations by flattery or menaces, by  
24 fraud or violence, by terror, intrigue, or venality, the  
25 Government may not be the choice of the American people, but  
26 of foreign nations. It may be foreign nations who govern  
27 us, and not we, the people, who govern ourselves".

28 (3) Restrictions on foreign election spending or  
29 interference of any kind are necessary to secure our borders  
30 and keep American democracy safe from foreign adversaries.

31 (4) Limits on illicit foreign campaign contributions  
32 can help stop money laundering, vote-buying, bribery, and  
33 other attempts to manipulate elections and the voters who  
34 participate in them and to corrupt lobbyists and public  
35 officials.

36 (5) Restraints on foreign actors and foreign  
37 interests, and those conspiring or otherwise acting in  
38 concert with them, must be enacted into law to prevent  
39 direct or indirect foreign influence on elections, political  
40 campaigns, state sovereignty, and governance.

41 3. The general assembly is authorized to enact laws in  
42 furtherance of this public policy and these findings. The

43 provisions of this section and any laws enacted under the  
44 authority of this section shall be liberally construed to  
45 promote this public policy and these findings, which are  
46 embedded in the right of suffrage as a fundamental article  
47 of republican government, rooted in democratic self-  
48 governance, and motivated by the need to protect national  
49 and state sovereignty and security.

50 4. It shall be unlawful for a foreign government, a  
51 foreign political party, an individual who is not a citizen  
52 of the United States of America, or any other foreign  
53 national as defined by law to directly or indirectly make a  
54 payment, gift, loan, advance, deposit, or donation of money  
55 or anything of value for the purpose of:

56 (1) Supporting or opposing the nomination or election  
57 of any candidate for public office;

58 (2) Supporting or opposing the drafting,  
59 qualification, passage, or defeat of any statewide or local  
60 ballot measure;

61 (3) Supporting or opposing the nomination, election,  
62 or retention of any judicial candidate or judge;

63 (4) Supporting or opposing the election or appointment  
64 of any delegate to a constitutional convention, a civil or  
65 military officer position, or any other public official who  
66 is required by this constitution or by the laws of this  
67 state to take an oath or affirmation to support or uphold  
68 the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution  
69 of Missouri;

70 (5) Supporting or opposing any political party,  
71 officer or employee of a political party, or candidate for  
72 or member of a political party committee;

73 (6) Supporting any committee that is supporting or  
74 opposing candidates, ballot measures, judicial candidates,

75 judges, any other public officials or civil or military  
76 officers, political parties, political party officers or  
77 employees, or political party committee candidates or  
78 members;

79 (7) Paying the debts or obligations of any candidate,  
80 ballot measure, judicial candidate, judge, any other public  
81 official or civil or military officer, political party,  
82 political party officer or employee, political party  
83 committee candidate or member, or campaign committee  
84 previously incurred for the purpose of subdivisions (1) to  
85 (6) of this subsection; or

86 (8) Making an electioneering communication, whether  
87 print, broadcast, or digital media, or otherwise, in any  
88 state or local election.

89 5. If any lobbyist knowingly, willfully, corruptly, or  
90 fraudulently assists a foreign government, a foreign  
91 political party, an individual who is not a citizen of the  
92 United States of America, or any other foreign national as  
93 defined by law to violate any of the provisions of this  
94 section or any law enacted under the authority of this  
95 section, then such lobbyist's registration shall be revoked  
96 or suspended by the state, and such lobbyist shall be  
97 prohibited from receiving compensation or making  
98 expenditures for lobbying. If such knowing, willful,  
99 corrupt, or fraudulent assistance involved a state sponsor  
100 of terrorism or a foreign terrorist organization, as defined  
101 by law, then such lobbyist shall also be guilty of a felony  
102 and shall be punished as provided by law enacted by the  
103 general assembly.

104 6. Knowingly, willfully, corruptly, or fraudulently  
105 assisting a foreign government, a foreign political party,  
106 an individual who is not a citizen of the United States of

107 America, or any other foreign national to violate any of the  
108 provisions of this section or any law enacted under the  
109 authority of this section, including but not limited to  
110 accepting or concealing illegal foreign money or bribes from  
111 foreign interests, shall be an impeachable offense if such  
112 public official is liable to impeachment pursuant to Article  
113 VII, Section 1 of this constitution or if the officer is not  
114 liable to impeachment, it shall be cause for removal from  
115 office in the manner provided by law. Beginning January 1,  
116 2027, any such public official who is removed or impeached  
117 for such violation shall be disqualified from receiving any  
118 pension and retirement benefits from the state of Missouri.  
119 If such knowing, willful, corrupt, or fraudulent assistance  
120 involved a state sponsor of terrorism or a foreign terrorist  
121 organization, then such public official shall also be guilty  
122 of a felony and shall be punished as provided by law enacted  
123 by the general assembly.

124 7. In addition to the restrictions on the use of the  
125 initiative and referendum in other provisions of this  
126 constitution, an initiative or referendum petition shall not  
127 be used to:

- 128 (1) Permit foreign interference in elections;
- 129 (2) Repeal, supersede, or subvert any laws of the  
130 United States, provisions of this constitution, or laws of  
131 this state that prohibit a person who is not a citizen of  
132 the United States from voting in elections in this state;
- 133 (3) Repeal, supersede, or subvert any provisions of  
134 this constitution or laws of this state that prohibit a  
135 person who is not a citizen of the United States from being  
136 elected or appointed to any civil or military office in this  
137 state;

138           (4) Eliminate, reduce, deny, or withhold the  
139 appropriation of money or other public funds to any law  
140 enforcement agency, the Missouri Department of the National  
141 Guard, first responders, or any governmental agency of this  
142 state that functions to protect Missouri's borders or to  
143 otherwise keep the peace and provide internal security  
144 within the borders of this state;

145           (5) Allow the purchase of farmland in Missouri by  
146 foreign interests;

147           (6) Authorize the sale, exchange, purchase, rental, or  
148 lease of any real estate by or to foreign interests that is  
149 near a military installation that is located within the  
150 state or outside the state but close to Missouri's borders;  
151 or

152           (7) Pose a threat to national or state security,  
153 weakening the borders of the United States or Missouri, or  
154 damaging or destroying the future, growth, or safety of the  
155 state, the citizens or residents of the state, or the  
156 children within the state, as set forth by concurrent  
157 resolution approved by the general assembly, which need not  
158 be presented to the governor for approval, or by law enacted  
159 by the general assembly.

160           8. To the greatest extent possible, election  
161 infrastructure used in state and local elections, including  
162 but not limited to voter registration databases, voting  
163 machines, voting tabulation equipment, and equipment for the  
164 secure transmission of election results shall be sourced,  
165 manufactured, and assembled in the United States. This is  
166 to promote election integrity and help restore public trust  
167 in elections by ensuring that election information and  
168 information systems are immune from unauthorized access,  
169 use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction by

170 foreign adversaries or others. The general assembly shall  
171 enact such laws and may make such appropriations necessary  
172 to enforce and assist in these and other state and local  
173 election integrity efforts.

174 9. The secretary of state shall determine and declare  
175 for each statewide initiative and referendum petition  
176 whether it complies with the provisions of this section or  
177 other provisions of this constitution, law, or concurrent  
178 resolution restricting the use of the initiative and  
179 referendum. If a proposed statewide initiative or  
180 referendum petition does not comply, the secretary of state  
181 shall remove it from consideration for signature gathering  
182 and placement on the ballot, stating the reason or reasons  
183 why it was removed. If a proposed constitutional amendment  
184 submitted by initiative petition or a proposed law submitted  
185 by an initiative or referendum petition has been approved  
186 for placement on the ballot, and if based on information  
187 that the secretary of state obtains or receives after such  
188 placement that it does not comply with the provisions of  
189 this section or other provisions of this constitution, law,  
190 or concurrent resolution restricting the use of the  
191 initiative and referendum, then the secretary of state shall  
192 remove such proposed constitutional amendment or law from  
193 the ballot prior to it being voted on, stating the reason or  
194 reasons why it was removed. Any local initiative or  
195 referendum measure that does not comply with the provisions  
196 of this section or other provisions of this constitution,  
197 law, or concurrent resolution restricting the use of the  
198 initiative and referendum shall be removed as provided by  
199 law enacted by the general assembly.

200 10. For all constitutional amendments submitted by  
201 initiative petition or laws submitted by an initiative or

202 referendum petition which were enacted into this  
203 constitution or law on or after the general election held in  
204 November, 2024, and on or before thirty-one days after this  
205 section is approved by the voters of Missouri, the secretary  
206 of state shall determine and declare whether a foreign  
207 government, a foreign political party, an individual who is  
208 not a citizen of the United States of America, or any other  
209 foreign national as defined by law directly or indirectly  
210 made a significant payment, gift, loan, advance, deposit, or  
211 donation of money or anything of value for the purpose of  
212 supporting the drafting, qualification, or passage of such  
213 initiative or referendum measure. If the secretary of state  
214 determines that such significant support did occur, then the  
215 secretary of state shall declare that such constitutional  
216 amendment or law is annulled and repealed. If such  
217 constitutional amendment or law, in whole or in part, was  
218 the repeal and reenactment of a previously enacted provision  
219 or provisions of this constitution or law, then the  
220 previously enacted provision or provisions of this  
221 constitution or law shall be reinstated and shall be in full  
222 force and effect.

223 11. The general assembly shall have exclusive  
224 authority to enact laws enforcing provisions in this  
225 constitution relating to election integrity, foreign  
226 interference in elections and campaigns, and voting only by  
227 citizens of the United States in elections in this state.

Section B. Pursuant to chapter 116, and other  
2 applicable constitutional provisions and laws of this state  
3 allowing the general assembly to adopt ballot language for  
4 the submission of this joint resolution to the voters of  
5 this state, the official summary statement of this  
6 resolution shall be as follows:



7 "Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:  
8 • Prevent foreign election interference;  
9 • Punish lobbyists and public officials who take  
10 money or bribes from foreign adversaries or  
11 assist them;  
12 • Protect election integrity by using U.S.-made  
13 election equipment and allowing only U.S.  
14 citizens to hold public office; and  
15 • Prohibit foreign-funded ballot measures?".

Section C. Pursuant to chapter 116, and other  
2 applicable constitutional provisions and laws of this state  
3 allowing the general assembly to adopt ballot language for  
4 the submission of this joint resolution to the voters of  
5 this state, the official fiscal note statement of this  
6 resolution shall be as follows:

7 "State and local governmental entities might  
8 have costs when safeguarding election integrity  
9 and infrastructure from foreign attacks.  
10 Governmental entities might have savings by not  
11 paying pensions and retirement to public  
12 officials who unlawfully took money or bribes  
13 from foreign adversaries. There are unknown  
14 costs or savings in securing Missouri's  
15 borders.".

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