

SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**SENATE JOINT  
RESOLUTION NO. 87**  
**103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

4330H.03C

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

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**JOINT RESOLUTION**

Submitting to the qualified voters of Missouri an amendment to Article VII of the Constitution of Missouri, by adopting one new section relating to sheriffs.

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

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

Section A. Article VII, Constitution of Missouri, is amended by adopting one new  
2 section, to be known as Section 15, to read as follows:

**Section 15. 1. Except as provided in subsection 2 of this section, each county  
2 shall elect a sheriff for a term of four years by a majority of the qualified voters of the  
3 county voting thereon at the time of voting designated for such office provided by law as  
4 of the effective date of this section and every four years thereafter.**

5 **2. The provisions of this section shall not apply to:**

6 **(1) Any city not within a county;**

7 **(2) Any county with a charter form of government adjacent to a city not within a  
8 county; or**

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.

9           **(3) Any county with a charter form of government which has a population**  
10 **greater than four hundred thousand inhabitants and that is adjacent to a county with a**  
11 **population greater than nine hundred thousand inhabitants.**

12           **3. Except as provided in subsection 2 of this section, the elected sheriff shall be**  
13 **the chief law enforcement officer in his or her county. Notwithstanding Article VI,**  
14 **Section 18(a) or any other article of the Missouri Constitution to the contrary, every**  
15 **sheriff, except as provided in subsection 2 of this section, in addition to duties as set in**  
16 **law, shall quell and suppress assaults, batteries, riots, routs, affrays, and insurrections**  
17 **and shall:**

18           **(1) Apprehend and commit to jail all felons and traitors;**

19           **(2) Attend each division of the circuit court presided over by a circuit or**  
20 **associate circuit court judge held in his or her county, when so directed by the court;**  
21 **and**

22           **(3) Execute process, including writs of replevin, attachments, and final process**  
23 **issued by circuit and associate circuit court judges, unless the sheriff of the county does**  
24 **not perform such duties as of August 28, 2026.**

25           **4. Except as provided in subsection 2 of this section, every sheriff is a**  
26 **conservator of the peace within his or her county and shall cause all offenders against**  
27 **law to appear at the next term of the circuit or associate court of the county, and to be**  
28 **committed to jail in case of failure to give the recognizance.**

29           **5. Except as provided in subsection 2 of this section, the sheriff shall hire and**  
30 **appoint such deputies, assistants, and other employees as the sheriff deems necessary for**  
31 **the proper discharge of the duties of his or her office, who shall hold office at the will**  
32 **and pleasure of the sheriff and may set their compensation within the limits of the**  
33 **allocations made for that purpose.**

34           **6. Except as provided in subsection 2 of this section, an elected county sheriff**  
35 **shall not be removed from office except by writ of quo warranto initiated by the**  
36 **attorney general.**

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

5           "Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to support law enforcement by  
6           preserving the right of citizens to elect a county sheriff, prohibiting the removal of a

7 county sheriff except by a writ of quo warranto, and recognizing the office of sheriff  
8 as part of the administration of justice?".

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