

SENATE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 87  
JOINT RESOLUTION

Submitting to the qualified voters of Missouri, an amendment to article VII of the Constitution of Missouri, by adding thereto one new section relating to sheriffs.

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

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

Section A. Article VII, Constitution of Missouri, is amended by adding thereto one new 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 shall elect a sheriff for a term of four years by a majority of the qualified voters of the county voting thereon at the time of voting designated for such office provided by law as of the effective date of this section and every four years thereafter.

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

(1) Any city not within a county;

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

(3) Any county with a charter form of government which has a population greater than four hundred thousand

13 inhabitants and that is adjacent to a county with a  
14 population greater than nine hundred thousand inhabitants.

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

24 (1) Apprehend and commit to jail all felons and  
25 traitors;

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

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

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

39 5. Except as provided in subsection 2 of this section,  
40 the sheriff shall hire and appoint such deputies,  
41 assistants, and other employees as the sheriff deems  
42 necessary for the proper discharge of the duties of his or  
43 her office, who shall hold office at the will and pleasure  
44 of the sheriff and may set their compensation within the  
45 limits of the allocations made for that purpose.

46           6. Except as provided in subsection 2 of this section,  
47 an elected county sheriff shall not be removed from office  
48 except by writ of quo warranto initiated by the attorney  
49 general.

          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           support law enforcement by preserving the right  
9           of citizens to elect a county sheriff,  
10          prohibiting the removal of a county sheriff  
11          except by a writ of quo warranto, and  
12          recognizing the office of sheriff as part of the  
13          administration of justice?".