



We, leaders of the undersigned national civil rights organizations, are united in condemning Amendment 3 that will appear on Missouri voters' November 3 General Election ballot. Amendment 3 is an attempt by self-interested politicians to gut popular voter-approved nonpartisan redistricting reforms, and then replace them with an unprecedented, discriminatory redistricting system unlike anything Missouri — or America — has ever seen.

Missourians overwhelmingly support redistricting reform. In 2018, the Clean Missouri Amendment (Amendment 1) passed with 62 percent of the vote, winning in every state senate district, 149 of 163 statehouse districts, and 80 of Missouri's 114 counties (plus the City of St. Louis), including a majority of heavily Republican counties. It was a landslide, grassroots, bipartisan victory for fair representation. But politicians set out almost immediately to circumvent the will of the people and undo these important reforms by putting Amendment 3 on the November 2020 ballot.

Amendment 3 would weaken protections for communities of color created by Amendment 1 just two years ago. The Clean Missouri Amendment 1 provides robust protections for communities of color by providing additional state-law protections that protect minority communities' ability to participate in the political process and fairly elect legislative representatives.

Amendment 3 also would undermine redistricting independence and re-open the door to extreme partisan gerrymandering aimed at insulating incumbent politicians from voters. The Clean Missouri Amendment made Missouri's redistricting process more independent by putting

the technical work of drawing maps in the hands of a nonpartisan demographer. Amendment 3 would eliminate the nonpartisan demographer and re-entrust the map drawing to hand-picked partisans who would hire their own operatives, reviving an abuse- and deadlock-prone process that voters squarely rejected in 2018.

Amendment 3 eliminates fairness in redistricting by giving the map drawers almost limitless leeway in distortive district boundaries. This paves the way for predetermined political outcomes that benefit political extremes and make voter preference irrelevant in setting political priorities.

Amendment 3 would not only change who draws the lines in Missouri; it also could potentially be used to try to limit who counts when the lines are drawn. By removing clear language expressly requiring that districts be established on the basis of total population, Amendment 3 would set the stage for possible attempts by power hungry politicians to argue that Missouri children and non-citizens should be excluded when drawing boundaries. The effects of such a move – which would almost certainly be challenged in court – would be profound. The impact on the state’s Black, Latino, and Asian communities in particular, would be extreme.

Amendment 3, in short, would move Missouri backwards. It is a deceptive and discriminatory Amendment and directly undermines the will of the people who enthusiastically supported the Clean Missouri Amendment in 2018. It would make redistricting in Missouri less protective of communities of color and less independent of partisan politics, and would result in gerrymandered maps and broken politics.

For these reasons, the undersigned organizations condemn Amendment 3.

Sincerely,
American Civil Liberties Union
Asian Americans Advancing Justice
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Ballot Initiative Strategy Center
Brennan Center for Justice
The Center for Popular Democracy
Color of Change
Common Cause
Dēmos
End Citizens United / Let America Vote Action Fund
League of Women Voters of the United States
National Council of Jewish Women
re:power
Sierra Club
Stand Up America
State Voices

