

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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Prosecuting Attorney

James Weber
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James D. Ellis
Delivered in Person

August 9, 2024

In Re: Referendum Petition for RSMo 137.1050

James Ellis:


I am in receipt of a Referendum Petition concerning RSMo 137.1050, formerly referred to as Senate Bill 190. RSMo 116.030 prescribes the form and language that is required for any referendum petition. Importantly, every petition must include the following language:

“It is a class A misdemeanor punishable, notwithstanding the provisions of section 560.021, RSMo,¹ to the contrary, for a term of imprisonment not to exceed one year in the county jail or a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars or both, for anyone to sign any referendum petition with any name other than his or her own, or knowingly to sign his or her name more than once for the same measure for the same election, or to sign a petition when such person knows he or she is not a registered voter.”

In addition, the statute indicates that each signature must have a section to be dated by the participant on the date of signing the same. The petitions submitted to me do not include this information. I have enclosed a copy of the statute for your review and guidance for the future. Based on the foregoing, the Dent County Commission voted to reject the petition on August 8, 2024. This decision was not taken lightly and was done expeditiously to provide you with an opportunity to submit a valid petition with the necessary signatures needed for a referendum ballot measure. In order for this ballot measure to be submitted for the November 2024 General Election, the petition must be submitted, with signatures verified by the County Clerk, and approved by the Commissioners, by August 27, 2024. The County Clerk has indicated that it will take approximately 3 days to verify signatures, so keep this in mind when submitting any referendum petition. Referendum petitions are one of the purest forms of democracy and if the majority of our voters in Dent County support any ballot measure, our office holders are more than happy to accommodate.

Since the Dent County Commission decided to reject the petition, I will make this information available to the local media in an effort to remain transparent. I trust the foregoing is reasonably clear, but if you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Andrew M. Curley
Prosecuting Attorney