Voting Attacks

Missouri Republicans have introduced legislation granting them the power to manipulate ballot language in their favor, misleading voters. After former Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft's unsuccessful attempt to influence voter perception of Amendment 3, through utilizing what a Judge described as "unfair" and "misleading" ballot language, Missouri Republicans have introduced S.B. 22. Under current law, a judge can immediately rewrite a challenged summary statement when brought to court. If the bill passes, the Secretary of State would get three opportunities to offer revisions to a challenged summary before a Judge has the power to write one. According to the Labor Tribune, "Missourians are already calling SB22 the 'Let Politicians Lie Act', a 'dangerous effort by politicians to block courts from rewriting deceptive ballot language that is meant to confuse voters." Commenting on the time constraint these changes add, Rep. Eric Woods stated, "If the time runs out, the challenge is extinguished, and it seems to me like whatever the last language is would stand, even if the court still thinks it's not fair." Included in the bill is an emergency clause "effective immediately, without any real justification, upon the signature of the governor." The bill is currently scheduled for its third reading in the House on April 10th. [Labor Tribune, <u>04/01/2025</u>; Missouri Independent, <u>05/09/2023</u>, <u>11/05/2024</u>, <u>04/02/2025</u>]

MAGA Extremists in the Missouri Legislature introduced legislation to create the Office of Election Crimes and Security. Senate Bill 350 would create the Office of Election Crimes and Security within the office of the Secretary of State to prosecute voters. Making an office to combat the myth of voter fraud instead attacks voters and intimidates people from voting. Senate Bill 350 died in committee. [MO SB 350, Second Read and Referred Senate Local Government and Elections Committee, 2/23/2023]

MAGA Extremists in the Missouri Legislature introduced a Voter ID Constitutional

Amendment. In 2022, HJR 94 was introduced to require all voters to prevent a government-issued photo ID and would require voter approval to go into effect. Voter photo ID laws are ineffective as means of combating voter fraud, but their main impact is promoting voter suppression. HJR 94 passed the House, but died in a Senate committee. [MO HJR 94, died in committee, 3/31/2022]

MAGA Extremists in the Missouri Legislature introduced legislation to increase the threshold for signatories needed for a people-led initiative to be placed on the ballot. In 2022, HJR 65 was introduced to increase signature requirements for ballot initiatives. Initiative petitions proposing amendments to the constitution would require signatures by eight percent of the legal voters in each of the congressional districts in the state, and petitions proposing laws shall be signed by five percent of such voters. By raising the threshold of signature requirements, it makes it harder for people to participate in the political process. HJR 65 died in committee. [MO HJR 65, Referred: Rules - Administrative Oversight, 2/14/2022]