

new political parties ballot access. Missouri is one of 26 states that allows regular people to get their issues on a ballot for voter approval even if the elected officials do not agree with the people. A major concern with the current imitative process arises because moneyed interests can pay to have signature collected while grassroots citizens groups lack funds to pay for signatures and rely on volunteers instead. Changes to address these shortcomings are needed:

- i. ~~requiring~~ require payment in the form of hourly wages or salaries rather than on a per signature basis;
- ii. require signature takers to disclose the source of their funding; and,
- iii. reduce the number of signatures for a new party to be on the ballot to 5,000; for a state law or Peoples Veto vote; to 20,000 and for a state constitutional amendment to 50,000.

Appendix A. Proportional Representation

Proportional representation (PR) is an electoral system where the percentage of the seats each political parties holds in a legislative body is equal to the percentage of the vote received by that political party. If a party gets 50% of the votes, that party should get 50% of the seats. If a party gets 10% of the vote, that party should get 10% of the seats. (1)

“All PR systems have certain basic characteristics — characteristics that set them apart from our current election system. First, they all use multi-member districts. Instead of electing one person in each district, as we do here in the U.S., several people are elected. These multi-member districts may be relatively small, with only 3 or 4 members, or they may be larger, with 10 or more members.

The second characteristic of all PR systems is that they divide up the seats in these multi-member districts according to the proportion of votes received by the various parties or groups running candidates. Thus if the candidates of a party win 40% of the vote in a 10 member district, they receive 4 of the 10 seats — or 40% of the seats. If another party wins 20% of the vote, they get two seats, and so on.” (2)

Mixed-Member Proportional Representation: See: <https://youtu.be/QT0I-sdoSXU>

1. <https://governmentbythepeople.org/ballot-initiatives/proportional-representation/>
2. http://www.fairvote.org/how_proportional_representation_elections_work

Appendix B: Rank Choice Voting

“Ranked choice voting (RCV) describes voting systems that allow voters to rank candidates in order of preference, and then uses those rankings to elect candidates able to combine strong first choice support with the ability to earn second and third choice support.

RCV is straightforward for voters: rank candidates in order of choice. Voters can rank as many candidates as they want, without fear that ranking others will hurt the chances of their favorite candidate. Exit polls and ballot analyses from ranked choice voting elections demonstrate that voters overwhelmingly understood how to rank candidates.

How the votes are counted depends on whether RCV is used to elect a single office, like a mayor or governor, or if it is used to elect more than one position at once, like for a city council or state legislature or for Congress in a multi-winner district.

When Electing One Candidate to Office. For a single office, like for a mayor or governor, RCV helps to elect a candidate more reflective of a majority of voters in a single election even when several viable candidates are in the race. It does this by counting the votes in rounds: