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MO Jobs with Justice

MOJWJ organizes workers, unions, faith leaders, community organizations, and economic justice supporters into advocacy campaigns for policies that improve the lives of working families.

In 2025, MOJWJ will focus on expanding and defending economic and health justice policies and defending MO's Initiative Petition process which enables these wins.

Origin Story

2018 - CLEAN MO + Repeal of “right to work” = unprecedented cross-issue engagement of grassroots powerbuilding groups

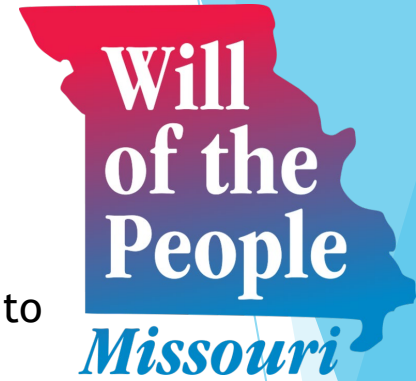
2019 - Stepped up attacks on the initiative petition + MO JWW sees no one organization with focus on IP process defense = Will of the People coalition

2019 - Seed Will of the People with in-state funding \$1,000 from 8-10 grassroots groups

2020-2025 - Growth in participation and funding pool



Purpose



Purpose: Will of the People of Missouri will come together to build power in support of Missouri's 100+ year history of direct democracy and majority rule. We will use data informed messaging and powerbuilding tactics collectively.

Outcome: Attendees will understand/agree to coalition norms, know where to find information about proposed legislation, discuss learnings from previous years/actions and plot power building tactics going forward. Participants will also understand the partnership between Will of the People and their organization.

MISSOURI INDEPENDENT

CANNABIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE ENERGY + ENVIRONMENT HEALTH CARE EDUCATION ELECTION 2024

LEGISLATURE

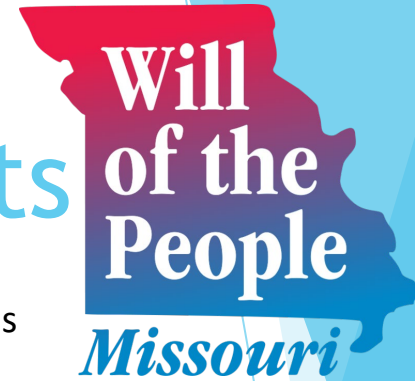
Missouri initiative petition bill, a top GOP priority, dies on final day of session

Republican leadership in both the House and Senate laid blame on each other for the bill's inability to make it to the statewide ballot

BY: RUDI KELLER AND ANNA SPOERRE - MAY 17, 2024 12:16 PM



2024 Accomplishments



- **2,000+** Pieces of Testimony Submitted in opposition to anti-IP bills (twice as much as in 2023)
- **200+** People at Voting Rights Lobby Day
- **33** participants into the story bank with approval and training for their stories to be shared in the media
- **Over 5,000** emails sent legislators
- **300** phone contacts generating 150 phone calls driven into the Missouri legislature
- **10** Letters to the editor published in MO publications across the state
- **50** organizations signed on to a statement (never released) in opposition should SJR74 pass signaling readiness to fight

2025 Threats

Legislative

- Dozens of bills/joint resolutions filed attacking the IP process
- Dozens of bills directly undoing Prop A - Minimum Wage & Paid Sick Days
- Dozens of bills attacking abortion and reproductive health access including joint resolution to bring skewed anti-abortion proposal to a vote of the people

Legal

- Direct challenge to Prop A, Minimum Wage & Paid sick at MO Supreme Court

Narrative

- Opposition adopt popular majority language while undoing majority rule
- Ballot Candy

Center Voices of People

“Missouri’s working class, in lockstep with allies across the state, went to the ballot box on November 5 to overwhelmingly voice our need for paid sick days and fair wages,” said **Bill Thompson, a low-wage worker and leader with the Missouri Workers Center**. “It’s sickening that our representatives in Jefferson City would try and put up roadblocks to making this kind of change possible. It hurts our families and communities and it’s un-American. The ballot process gives us a chance for change and hope, and we must come together as low-wage workers and Missourians — Black, white, and Brown — to protect it.”

“I joined with hundreds of volunteers last year to take democracy into our own hands and collect signatures to pass a law that Missourians wanted and needed. The initiative petition process has been around for 107 years, and it’s not right for lawmakers to want to change what has been a great tool of our democracy,” said **Ray Thomas, Missouri Jobs with Justice Leader and union member**. “Politicians are surprised by the high success rate we had with signature gathering, which shows they aren’t in tune with what voters want, and should not change the process for us to express our needs to those who refuse to listen.”

More Voices

Mark Perrigo, a Republican voter and painter from Hallsville, MO, had this to say about these unconscionable joint resolutions, “Rather than do a better job for the people of Missouri, those same politicians have decided to be sore losers and try to take away our ability to change things for our communities. Missourians all over the state believe in one person, one vote.”

“The legislature is so afraid of the will of the people that they are rushing through a bill that is poorly written and will only create more problems and uncertainty,” said **Alejandro Gallardo, a prep cook and worker leader with Missouri Jobs with Justice.** “Politicians will do anything to make it harder for us to use our voices.”

