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May 26, 2015

OPINION LETTER NO. 65-2015

The Honorable Jason Kander
Missouri Secretary of State
James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center
600 West Main Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Secretary Kander:

This opinion letter responds to your request dated May 13, 2015, for our review under § 116.334, RSMo, of a proposed summary statement prepared for the petition submitted by Winston Apple regarding a proposed constitutional amendment to amend Article III of the Missouri Constitution (2016-037). The proposed summary statement is as follows:

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to change the process for electing members of the Missouri House of Representatives by:

- reducing the number to 50 members and electing each member statewide rather than by legislative district;
- allowing political parties to select their nominees by a statewide primary election, caucuses, party nominating convention, or a combination of caucuses and a convention;

- permitting independent candidates to qualify for the general election by submitting a certain number of signatures; and
- awarding House seats based on the total statewide percentage received in the general election by each political party and independent candidates?

Pursuant to § 116.334, RSMo, we approve the legal content and form of the proposed statement. Because our review of the statement is mandated by statute, no action that we take with respect to such review should be construed as an endorsement of the petition, nor as the expression of any view regarding the objectives of its proponents.

Very truly yours,



CHRIS KOSTER
Attorney General