



## Preserve Local Elections

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### Background Information:

One of the arguments Missouri legislators make for Amendment 7 -- which would ban ranked choice voting -- is that they're distressed at out-of-state organizations with ample money coming into Missouri and essentially buying their own policy preferences. These groups hire people for petition drives to get those preferences on the ballot.

This understanding accurately applies to a 2022 state-wide petition drive, which almost had enough signatures to make the ballot. This "top four" system presented itself to petition signers as ranked choice voting but was actually a more complicated system that included a non-partisan primary. This is why legislators often confuse non-partisan primaries as a part of ranked choice voting. The two are entirely separate issues. Ranking can also be used in party primaries.

Legislators have said they thought Amendment 7 was a defense against such paid petition-drive tactics. But it serves as no defense at all.

If Amendment 7 passes, the big-money out-of-state organizations can still have a petition drive in 2026 to put their voting system on the ballot. They have this in the works as a possibility now. The later amendment would simply over-ride Amendment 7. The passage of Amendment 7 will *have no effect whatsoever* on their plans.




This is why the out-of-state big-money groups aren't putting any money into trying to defeat Amendment 7. We as the in-state Missouri campaign committee haven't received a penny from them. The millions of dollars they have to spend are going to states with positive campaigns to put voting in place.

But wouldn't the passage of Amendment 7 communicate to these out-of-state groups that Missourians don't want ranked choice voting, and therefore discourage them from trying?

Not remotely. Because of the tricky wording and [ballot candy](#), these groups don't understand this to be any kind of referendum on ranked choice voting at all. If the legislature had intended that, it should have put the ban on the ballot by itself without trying to lure people into a yes vote on an entirely different issue.

Nor has there been enough public attention and debate on the issue to account this as a referendum on what the public thinks.

Only low-budget Missouri citizens who want to allow their localities to have elections on whether or not to use ranked choice voting are stopped by Amendment 7.

	1st	2nd	3rd
 Candidate A	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
 Candidate B	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
 Candidate C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>