

PUBLIC EDUCATION UNDER ATTACK!

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS GATHERING SIGNATURES

BE ALERT! Special-interest groups have begun collecting signatures to place TWO anti-public education constitutional amendments on the November ballot. These groups want to force their special interest agenda into the Missouri Constitution.



What Should I Do ?

- 1) Talk to your colleagues, neighbors, and community about the danger of these two initiatives. Ask them to **“DECLINE TO SIGN!”**
- 2) Ask the person gathering signatures questions:
 - “Do they live in Missouri?”
 - “Are they being paid to gather signatures?”
 - Ask to see the petition.
- 3) Stand near the petitioner and let others know the facts – ask them to learn more before signing.
- 4) Don’t be afraid to ask the manager of the location to remove the person gathering signatures.
- 5) Visit mnea.org/decline2sign to download this flier, report where you saw a signature gather and learn how to remove your name if you accidentally signed a petition.

Get the Facts:

ATTACK #1: REX SINQUEFIELD'S ONE-SIZE-FITS ALL ATTACK ON TEACHERS:

- Creates “**one-size-fits all mandate**” requiring teacher evaluations to be based on standardized tests. This initiative, treats our students like widgets coming off an assembly line. We need to make sure our children are good critical thinkers, not just good test takers
- All teachers and certified staff become “**at will**” employees and can be fired without cause.
- Pay can be reduced for all certified staff **without notice or due process**.
- Ends due process protection for teachers and certified staff.

Ballot Language:

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- require teachers to be evaluated by a standards based performance evaluation system for which each local school district must receive state approval to continue receiving state and local funding;
- require teachers to be dismissed, retained, demoted, promoted and paid primarily using quantifiable student performance data as part of the evaluation system;
- require teachers to enter into contracts of three years or fewer with public school districts; and
- prohibit teachers from organizing or collectively bargaining regarding the design and implementation of the teacher evaluation system?

Decisions by school districts regarding provisions allowed or required by this proposal and their implementation will influence the potential costs or savings impacting each district. Significant potential costs may be incurred by the state and/or the districts if new/additional evaluation instruments must be developed to satisfy the proposal's performance evaluation requirements

***To view the complete text of the initiative go to: <http://sos.mo.gov/elections/2014petitions/2014-024.pdf>*

ATTACK #2: PUBLIC TAX DOLLARS TO FUND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS:

- Changes the Missouri Constitution removing protections on public money and allows your tax dollars to fund religious and parochial schools.
- Provides a tax break for wealthy individuals who pay tuition at elite private schools.
- Harms public school students by diverting resources from schools and students.
- A renewed attempt at parochial school vouchers.

Ballot Language:

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- create a tax credit for donations made to nonprofit corporations that provide funds to improve programs in public school districts, provide scholarships for students to attend qualified private or parochial elementary or secondary schools, or support special education services for children;
- limit the tax credit to \$50,000 annually per individual or business entity, and cap the entire credit at \$90 million annually; and
- repeal any constitutional provisions that prohibit taxpayer funds from being used to aid private or parochial elementary or secondary schools that qualify for the funding in this measure?

Any decrease in state revenue will depend on the redemption of tax credits issued related to this proposal, initially limited to \$90 million per year. Increased annual state operating expenses are expected to be initially about \$120,000. Each individual school district will experience an unknown annual change in revenue.

***To view the complete text of the initiative go to: <http://sos.mo.gov/elections/2014petitions/2014-045.pdf>*