

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COLE COUNTY, MISSOURI

RICHARD VON GLAHN,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No.

DENNY HOSKINS, in his official
capacity,

Defendant.

**PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO SHORTEN
TIME FOR DEFENDANT TO PLEAD**

Plaintiff Richard von Glahn, pursuant to Rule 44.01, respectfully moves this Court to shorten the time for Defendant to file a pleading responsive to Plaintiff's Petition for Declaratory Judgment and Injunctive Relief Under Section 116.200. In support, Plaintiff states:

1. On August 4, 2026, Plaintiff filed his Petition for Declaratory Judgment and Injunctive Relief challenging Defendant Hoskins' certificate of insufficiency for the referendum on House Bill 1 ("HB 1").
2. Plaintiff's Petition was filed within 10 days of Defendant Hoskins issuing the certificate of insufficiency, as required by § 116.200.1, RSMo.
3. Defendant ordinarily has thirty days after service of the summons and petition to file a responsive pleading. *See* Rule 55.25(a). The exigent circumstances of this case require a substantially shortened response period.

4. By law, no changes can be made to the November 2026 general election ballots after September 8, 2026.

5. This statutory deadline creates an extraordinarily compressed timeline for this Court—and the appellate courts—to adjudicate the sufficiency of the Referendum and, if necessary, order that the Referendum be placed on the ballot.

6. The sole basis for Defendant Hoskins' certificate of insufficiency is his assertion that the Referendum violates the Missouri and U.S. Constitutions. Defendant did not identify the number of signatures gathered as a reason for deeming the Referendum insufficient. Accordingly, the issues presented are purely legal in nature and do not require extensive factual development or discovery.

7. Defendant Hoskins is already well familiar with the legal issues raised in the Petition. He advanced the same constitutional arguments in the federal action, *Missouri General Assembly v. von Glahn*, No. 25-cv-01535 (E.D. Mo.), which was filed October 15, 2025, and dismissed on December 8, 2025.

8. Given the purely legal nature of the dispute, the September 8, 2026 ballot deadline, and Defendant's prior and extensive litigation of these same issues, good cause exists to shorten the time for Defendant to respond.

9. Unless the time to respond is shortened, the ordinary response period will extend well past the ballot deadline, effectively mooting Plaintiff's

claims and depriving Missouri voters of the opportunity to vote on the Referendum.

10. Plaintiff will suffer irreparable harm if the Court is unable to adjudicate this matter prior to the September 8, 2026 ballot deadline, as his constitutional referendum right will be permanently lost for the 2026 election cycle.

11. Defendant will suffer no prejudice from a shortened response period. The legal issues are well-defined, previously briefed, and do not require discovery or additional factual investigation.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court enter an Order shortening the time for Defendant to respond to Plaintiff's Petition to 5 days from the date of service and granting such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing will be served on Defendants by special process server, contemporaneously with service of the Petition.

/s/ Charles W. Hatfield

Attorney for Plaintiffs