

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 961

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOFANELLI.

1827H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 115.127, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to elections.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 115.127, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 115.127, to read as follows:

115.127. 1. Except as provided in subsection 4 of this section, upon receipt of notice of a special election to fill a vacancy submitted pursuant to section 115.125, the election authority shall cause legal notice of the special election to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in its jurisdiction. The notice shall include the name of the officer or agency calling the election, the date and time of the election, the name of the office to be filled and the date by which candidates must be selected or filed for the office. Within one week prior to each special election to fill a vacancy held in its jurisdiction, the election authority shall cause legal notice of the election to be published in two newspapers of different political faith and general circulation in the jurisdiction. The legal notice shall include the date and time of the election, the name of the officer or agency calling the election and a sample ballot. If there is only one newspaper of general circulation in the jurisdiction, the notice shall be published in the newspaper within one week prior to the election. If there are two or more newspapers of general circulation in the jurisdiction, but no two of opposite political faith, the notice shall be published in any two of the newspapers within one week prior to the election.

2. Except as provided in subsections 1 and 4 of this section and in sections 115.521, 115.549 and 115.593, the election authority shall cause legal notice of each election held in its jurisdiction to be published. The notice shall be published in two newspapers of different

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 political faith and qualified pursuant to chapter 493 which are published within the bounds of
19 the area holding the election. If there is only one so qualified newspaper, then notice shall be
20 published in only one newspaper. If there is no newspaper published within the bounds of the
21 election area, then the notice shall be published in two qualified newspapers of different political
22 faith serving the area. Notice shall be published twice, the first publication occurring in the
23 second week prior to the election, and the second publication occurring within one week prior
24 to the election. Each such legal notice shall include the date and time of the election, the name
25 of the officer or agency calling the election and a sample ballot; and, unless notice has been
26 given as provided by section 115.129, the second publication of notice of the election shall
27 include the location of polling places. The election authority may provide any additional notice
28 of the election it deems desirable.

29 3. The election authority shall print the official ballot as the same appears on the sample
30 ballot, and no candidate's name or ballot issue which appears on the sample ballot or official
31 printed ballot shall be stricken or removed from the ballot except on death of a candidate or by
32 court order.

33 4. In lieu of causing legal notice to be published in accordance with any of the provisions
34 of this chapter, the election authority in jurisdictions which have less than seven hundred fifty
35 registered voters and in which no newspaper qualified pursuant to chapter 493 is published, may
36 cause legal notice to be mailed during the second week prior to the election, by first class mail,
37 to each registered voter at the voter's voting address. All such legal notices shall include the date
38 and time of the election, the location of the polling place, the name of the officer or agency
39 calling the election and a sample ballot.

40 5. If the opening date for filing a declaration of candidacy for any office in a political
41 subdivision or special district is not required by law or charter, the opening filing date shall be
42 8:00 a.m., the ~~[sixteenth]~~ **seventeenth** Tuesday prior to the election, except that for any home
43 rule city with more than four hundred thousand inhabitants and located in more than one county
44 and any political subdivision or special district located in such city, the opening filing date shall
45 be 8:00 a.m., the fifteenth Tuesday prior to the election. If the closing date for filing a
46 declaration of candidacy for any office in a political subdivision or special district is not required
47 by law or charter, the closing filing date shall be 5:00 p.m., the ~~[eleventh]~~ **fifteenth** Tuesday
48 prior to the election. The political subdivision or special district calling an election shall, before
49 the sixteenth Tuesday, or the fifteenth Tuesday for any home rule city with more than four
50 hundred thousand inhabitants and located in more than one county or any political subdivision
51 or special district located in such city, prior to any election at which offices are to be filled, notify
52 the general public of the opening filing date, the office or offices to be filled, the proper place
53 for filing and the closing filing date of the election. Such notification may be accomplished by

54 legal notice published in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the political subdivision
55 or special district.

56 6. Except as provided for in sections 115.247 and 115.359, if there is no additional cost
57 for the printing or reprinting of ballots or if the candidate agrees to pay any printing or reprinting
58 costs, a candidate who has filed for an office or who has been duly nominated for an office may,
59 at any time after the certification required in section 115.125 but no later than 5:00 p.m. on the
60 sixth Tuesday before the election, withdraw as a candidate pursuant to a court order, which,
61 except for good cause shown by the election authority in opposition thereto, shall be freely given
62 upon application by the candidate to the circuit court of the area of such candidate's residence.

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