



Casey Woods challenges team on Day 1 of fall camp

SPORTS, 1B

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MO SENATE DISTRICT 20

Rook wins upset in GOP primary



Marta Mieze
Springfield News-Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

Lori Rook, a Springfield elder law attorney, has upset longtime Republican

legislator Curtis Trent in the race for the Missouri Senate District 20 Republican nomination.

With all precincts in the district reporting Aug. 4, Rook won with 53% of the vote, a margin of about 1,900 votes, according to unofficial results from the Mis-

souri Secretary of State Office. The race was a close call as early results rolled in Tuesday night, though Rook held a steady lead in Greene County precincts.

Rook told the News-Leader she felt “very blessed” to see the results in a campaign and race that she described as a

“very steep hill.” She said her stances on the proposal to eliminate the state income tax — which voters overwhelmingly rejected Tuesday — and data centers contributed to garnering voter support.

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Yard signs for Amendment 5 line the driveway by a polling location on Aug. 4. Many voters expressed the amendment that would phase out the state income tax was a motivating factor in their turnout. MARTA MIEZE/SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER

MO voters make voices heard on 4 amendments

Susan Szuch
Springfield News-Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

Missouri voters turned out in force to make their voices known on four state-wide amendments during the primary election Aug. 4, 2026. By 9 a.m. Aug. 5, all precincts had reported in, although newsrooms including the Associated Press and New York Times called all amendment races within hours of polls closing based on early results in key precincts. Here’s a look at what voters approved and what they rejected.

Voters resoundingly reject initiative petition changes

In a significant show of support for direct democracy, Missourians decided to

maintain the state’s current initiative petition process, with 80% voting “no” to Amendment 4, according to the Secretary of State’s preliminary online results.

Amendment 4 asked whether voters wanted to change the way initiative petitions work to amend the Missouri Constitution. If approved, it would have required an initiative petition to be approved by a majority of voters in each congressional district in the state in order for it to pass — effectively allowing a small percentage of voters in a single district to defeat a measure with strong support in the rest of the state.

“The people have spoken. The people spoke loudly, clearly and overwhelmingly. Amendments 4 and 5 have been soundly defeated — and buried so deep in citizen rejection that they should never come back,” said Scott Charton,

spokesman for Missouri Realtors campaign committees Missourians for Fair Governance (NO on 4) and Missourians for Fair Taxation (NO on 5). “Citizen-led, voter-approved constitutional taxpayer protections have been strongly defended and reaffirmed by the people of Missouri. And our fellow Missourians sent a powerful message to Jefferson City: The people are in charge, the majority rules, and every citizen’s vote counts equally.”

Protect Majority Rule MO, another group that advocated for a “no” vote, noted that while the vote is a success, it is not likely to be the last time limits are tested.

“Tonight, voters rejected politicians’ attempt to create a rigged system

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Lawsuit filed after Hoskins blocks vote on MO map

Rudi Keller
MISSOURI INDEPENDENT

Missouri Secretary of State Denny Hoskins blocked a public vote on the state’s new congressional map Tuesday, Aug. 4, declaring a referendum petition unconstitutional a few hours before polls closed in the primary election.

He refused to tell reporters at a Jefferson City press conference whether the petition had enough valid signatures to qualify for the November ballot. It didn’t matter, he said, because the Missouri Constitution does not allow a referendum on redistricting.

“Whether they had one signature or 500 million signatures doesn’t really matter because they are unconstitutional,” Hoskins said at a news conference.

The political action committee People Not Politicians turned in more than 300,000 signatures in December, and local election authorities spent hundreds of hours verifying whether the people who signed were registered voters.

Hoskins also rejected a proposed constitutional amendment to limit legislative power to change measures passed by initiative. That proposal, which would have been Amendment 6 on the Nov. 3 ballot, violates the requirements that ballot measures be limited to a single subject and amend only one article of the constitution, he said. The Respect MO Voters committee also submitted more than 300,000 signatures, and Hoskins declined to disclose that count as well.

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