



Freedom Principle MO Calls Out Show Me Integrity for Deceiving Voters to Get Them to Sign Petition to Promote Approval Voting

For Immediate Release

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The Freedom Principle MO is calling out Show Me Integrity for using deceiving tactics to trick people to get them to sign its petition to get Approval Voting on the November 2024 ballot. On June 15th, in a Zoom call with supporters, CEO Benjamin Singer asks attendees not to share information about an upcoming fundraiser with former Secretary of State Jason Kander, a Democrat from the Kansas City area. Here is a link to the Zoom call <https://twitter.com/LibertyAllUSA/status/1669440598955229184> “Show Me Integrity is hiding who they really are by not wanting to publicize this event,” says Byron Keelin, President of the Freedom Principle MO. “Show Me Integrity claims to be a bi-partisan group and that they are trying to build support with Republicans, but they don’t want this fundraiser with Mr. Kander publicized. If Show Me Institute was a true bi-partisan organization, they wouldn’t need to hide the upcoming fundraiser with Democrat Kander.”

“This sounds like an effort to mislead potential Republican voters to sign their petition,” said Keelin. “We are going to send this information to the Missouri Secretary of State and the Missouri Ethics Commission and ask them to investigate Show Me Integrity to see if the group has violated any election laws in Missouri.”

Show Me Integrity was part of a group called STL Approves in 2020 and partnered with radical Progressive and Socialist groups like the League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis, The Organization for Black Struggle, St. Louis Young Democrats, Action St. Louis Power Project, Representative Cori Bush Action and then Treasurer Tishaura Jones in getting Proposition D passed which established Approval Voting in St. Louis City in November 2020.

The secret fundraiser is part of an effort to raise \$600,000, as was reported in “Ballot Access News.” According to the story, Show Me Integrity claims, “The estimated cost of that is \$1.2 million. SMI has located a potential donor who had pledged \$600,000, with the proviso that the other \$600,000 be raised first.” “This is just another dark-money group trying to corrupt the integrity of Missouri’s elections,” said Keelin. Some of the donors to Show Me Integrity include a \$50,000 donation from Progress St. Louis Action Fund and a \$35,000 from the Center for Election Science.

Approval Voting was approved in St. Louis in November 2020. Approval Voting would allow the voter to choose more than one candidate for each office and the top two candidates would then compete in a runoff election. Supporters say Approval Voting will increase voter turnout. “This is a false and misleading effort to manipulate uninformed voters to sign their petition,” says Keelin. “Approval Voting disenfranchises voters. In 2020, the St. Louis Aldermanic African American Caucus called Approval Voting “A numbers gimmick that would obscure true debates and issue-driven dialogue among candidates.”

St. Louis approved Approval Voting in 2020 and it has done nothing to increase voter turnout. “St. Louis election turnout has plummeted,” said Keelin. According to election data, in 2021 when Approval Voting was first implemented, St. Louis’s April 2021 election had a 29% turnout. In 2023, the St. Louis City April election had an 18.1% turnout, and this election featured all wards electing new Aldermen for the 14 new ward structure.

“The Freedom Principle MO is working with statewide grassroots leaders and Republican Central Committees to educate voters to reject this attempt to rig our elections and to break the strong Republican majority in our legislature,” said Keelin.

The Freedom Principle MO is a pro-citizen, pro-Missouri First organization. We are a membership-based 501(c)4 organization, acting locally and state-wide, to protect our families and our constitutionally protected liberties. We are fighting for America. We are fighting for Missouri. We are fighting for you. For more information about the Freedom Principle MO visit our website at www.freedomprinciplemo.org.

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