

VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 3

## Editorial: Amendment 3 strikes out. Vote no on anti-schools measure.



3 HOURS AGO • BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD

**Since it's playoff** season, let's consider Amendment 3 on Missouri's November ballot in baseball terms. The amendment seeks to gut teacher tenure laws, reduce the ability of teachers to collectively bargain and require teachers to be evaluated primarily based on standardized test results of their students.

Send Amendment 3 to the showers by voting

no. Here's why it strikes out:

**Strike one:** The amendment was put on the ballot by anti-public education zealot Rex Sinquefield, who has spent millions of his own dollars over the past few years buying compliant lawmakers who seek to implement his singular plans for reforming public schools. Most of his ideas are anti-teacher and involved bleeding away the public resources needed to educate children. Mr. Sinquefield should leave the schools alone.

**Strike two:** Because the polling was bad, or perhaps because he realized that he had rallied a strong coalition against Amendment 3 involving teachers and business leaders, Mr. Sinquefield canceled his campaign for the very amendment he spent \$2.3 million putting before voters. It's such a bad idea that he's not even campaigning for it. What an embarrassment.

**Strike three:** Amendment 3 is chock-full of bad ideas. Teacher tenure laws protect public employees from being fired without cause. Despite these protections, good school administrators know how to get rid of bad teachers. A change to the law isn't necessary. But the worst thing about Amendment 3 is that it imposes an untested experiment on all local school districts in the state, requiring them to devise a new standardized test for students that becomes the primary evaluation tool for teachers. Don't our children take enough standardized tests these days?

The state is already moving toward using more student performance to evaluate teachers, but it is doing so in a collaborative way with educators. Amendment 3 would impose a one-size-fits-all approach that takes away local control and would do little to promote learning. It would be foolish to abruptly change a process that is just being implemented before the schools have any idea if it even works.

**Vote No on Amendment 3**, which is opposed by educators and business leaders

throughout the state. It whiffs in every possible way.