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One Springfield business owner calls the upcoming E-Verify vote "a solution begging for a problem in Springfield."

Another wonders why a Springfield employer wouldn't want to use E-Verify to know whether a job applicant is legal to hire.

On Feb. 7, Springfield voters will decide whether anyone who hires within the city of Springfield will be forced to use the government's online E-Verify system.

The controversial proposal put forth by the Ozarks Minutemen could lead to fines for those who don't use E-Verify in their hiring or who employ people who can't legally work in the city.

The proposal sparked a range of views among local business owners and hiring managers.

"I'm going to vote against it," said Tom Pierson, who co-owns Kaleidoscope Ink tattoo shop in Springfield with his wife, Pam.

"I don't see that a problem exists for there to be such a hue and cry for it. It's a solution begging for a problem in Springfield."

Pierson employs between 15 and 20 people and with relatively low turnover, wouldn't need to do an E-Verify query very often.

"Frankly, I wouldn't know how to do it," he said. "It would be a hassle at first. I would have to delegate it, probably to my wife and daughter."

Kit Carson, president of Carson-Mitchell Engineers & Builders, said his company already E-Verifies every prospective employee.

"We already are required to do it for all public work contracts we get," Carson said. "Not just us, but all our subcontractors."

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