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PROTECT OUR CONSTITUTION VOTE “**AGAINST**” ALL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The legislature is running roughshod over our Constitution, pushing through new measures to restrict voting, undermine our separation of powers, and nickel and dime consumers. These amendments are unprecedented, unnecessary, politically-driven, and hurt our state. Many are nothing more than a “blank check” to allow partisan politicians to do as they please.

PROTECT OUR CONSTITUTION, VOTE “**AGAINST**” CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Any attempt to change our Constitution should be deliberate and bipartisan. The public has only voted on seven amendments in the last twenty years. Now, we’re forced to vote on nearly as many in one election.

It’s not enough to stand against a few of the amendments when the effort behind each of them is partisan politics. North Carolina must send a loud message by voting “against” each of the proposed constitutional amendments.

- **Amendment: Bipartisan Board of Ethics and Elections**

BALLOT LANGUAGE *Constitutional amendment to establish a bipartisan Board of Ethics and Elections.*

- ✓ Would create an even-numbered board that will deadlock.
- ✓ All living NC governors and all living state Supreme Court Justices oppose this amendment.
- ✓ Would fundamentally alter the balance of power that North Carolina’s constitution has historically maintained, removing important constitutional checks and balances.

- **Amendment: Non-Partisan Judicial Merit Commission**

BALLOT LANGUAGE *Constitutional amendment to change the process for filling judicial vacancies that occur between judicial elections from a process in which the Governor has sole appointment power to a process in which the people of the State nominate individuals to fill vacancies by way of a commission comprised of appointees made by the judicial, executive, and legislative branches charged with making*

recommendations to the legislature as to which nominees are deemed qualified; then the legislature will recommend at least two nominees to the Governor via legislative action not subject to gubernatorial veto; and the Governor will appoint judges from among these nominees.

- ✓ The deceptive language masks the true intent: to concentrate power in the General Assembly, weakening the courts and the governor.
- ✓ Judicial qualifications are already defined by the NC Constitution.
- ✓ Would create a partisan process allowing the political party in power in the General Assembly to submit nominees, appoint the commission, select the candidates, and require the governor to choose one of them.
- ✓ Legislators, not the people of the state, would nominate individuals to fill vacancies.

- **Amendment: Voter ID**

BALLOT LANGUAGE *Constitutional amendment to require voters to provide photo identification before voting in person.*

- ✓ This contains no implementation language. You have to pass this one to find out what's in it.
- ✓ This amendment isn't mainstream, it's extreme. Only one state has a photo ID requirement in its constitution: Mississippi. This amendment is worse.
- ✓ Voter fraud is not a problem. Out of 4,769,640 votes cast in 2016, only ONE fraudulent vote would have been prevented with voter ID.

- **Amendment: Income Tax Cap of 7%**

BALLOT LANGUAGE *Constitutional amendment to reduce the income tax rate in North Carolina to a maximum allowable rate of seven percent (7%).*

- ✓ Your taxes won't go down. Property and sales taxes will go up to fill the gap.
- ✓ We won't be able to fund schools and other priorities adequately.
- ✓ The wealthiest will continue to get the biggest tax breaks.

- **Amendment: Crime Victims (Marsy's Law)**

BALLOT LANGUAGE *Constitutional amendment to strengthen protections for victims of crime; to establish certain absolute basic rights for victims; and to ensure the enforcement of these rights.*

- ✓ We already have strong victim's rights legislation.
- ✓ This is an underfunded/unfunded mandate.
- ✓ Would compromise a victim's right to privacy and the accused's right to a speedy trial.
- ✓ Would eliminate the current distinction between adult and juvenile offenses.
- ✓ Victim's advocates in states that have voted on Marsy's Law opposed it, as does the NC ACLU.

- **Amendment: Protect the Right to Hunt and Fish**

BALLOT LANGUAGE *Constitutional amendment protecting the right of the people to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife.*

- ✓ There is no threat to anyone's right to hunt or fish.
- ✓ Property owners may be unable to restrict hunting or fishing on private land.
- ✓ Would have an unknown effect on commercial fishing and on environmental regulations and protections.
- ✓ Extensive litigation is likely.

What people are saying...

"[The legislature is] forcing people to vote for constitutional amendments that are bad for our state and that are unnecessary."

– Gov. Cooper

"You have to defeat (the amendment)."

–
Republican Gov. Jim Martin

"Wise North Carolina voters should vote 'No'"

–
Wilmington Star News

"This is a constitutional train wreck waiting to happen."

– News & Observer