



VOTE YES ON NOVEMBER 6

Marsy's Law for stronger victims' rights in North Carolina

❖ Marsy's Law for All is a bipartisan victims' rights initiative that seeks to amend state constitutions like North Carolina's that do not currently guarantee enforceable protections to victims of crime that are already afforded to the accused and convicted.

❖ Marsy's Law is not a partisan issue. Giving crime victims co-equal rights is a rare political issue that Republicans and Democrats are unified in supporting. In June 2018, the North Carolina General Assembly passed Marsy's Law with a broad bipartisan vote - more than 150 YES votes from both parties - to send it to the state's voters on November 6.

❖ The law was debated and vetted with stakeholders for more than a year when it passed the House and the Senate in overwhelming bipartisan votes - including the leadership of both parties who agreed that crime victims in North Carolina deserve stronger and guaranteed rights in the state constitution.

❖ Marsy's Law for NC will focus on crimes against a person by guaranteeing rights regardless of where the crime occurs in North Carolina. These rights will include being informed about and being allowed to speak in certain court proceedings such as bail hearings and plea agreements; and being notified when the accused has a change in custody or is released from prison.

❖ The projected cost to the state is minimal when compared to implementation costs in similar states. Potential costs are based primarily around notification requirements like change in custody of the accused or notifying victims of important court events affecting the case. Most elected officials and voters agree that North Carolina should already be notifying crime victims about their case or the custody status of the accused.

❖ Marsy's Law for stronger victims' rights is independent from the other statewide amendments being considered on November 6. Amending the state's constitution should never be taken lightly, but reserving this level of law for a cause as important as stronger victims' rights is - by many measures - the appropriate time to amend the constitution. While there are currently statutory rights for victims of crime in North Carolina - constitutional rights are a stronger guarantee - and a guarantee that victims and their families deserve.

❖ Marsy's Law will simply elevate victims to the same current level as the accused and convicted in the constitution - nothing more and nothing less - and will take nothing away from the current constitutional rights criminal defendants have to access fair trials and due process.

❖ There are already 35 states that have some form of victims' rights in their constitution, including California, Illinois, North and South Dakota and Ohio which all passed Marsy's Law in recent years. In 2018 it is on the ballot in six additional states, including North Carolina.

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