

# Constitutional Amendments Proposed by NC Legislature



Voters will choose either "FOR" or "AGAINST" changes:

## WHAT THE BALLOT SAYS

*Starting from bottom, last page of ballot*

## WHAT THE LAW WOULD CHANGE

### VOTER PHOTO ID

"Constitutional amendment to require voters to provide photo identification before voting in person."

- 381,000 eligible NC voters (5.6%) do not have photo ID. Primarily seniors, youth, low income, people of color, people with disabilities.
- 1400 citizens could not vote in the March 2016 Primary due to the ID law that was in place at that time (ruled unconstitutional in July 2016).
- There is no plan to ensure that all voters who need an ID get one.
- Types of photo ID that would be allowed or exceptions to the law won't be decided until AFTER this is voted on.

### INCOME TAX CAP

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

- Lowers cap on income tax from 10 to 7% for all NC taxpayers.
- In the case of another recession or emergency, lawmakers would only have the option of increasing sales taxes and fees which impact people regardless of income.

### JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

"Constitutional amendment to implement a nonpartisan merit-based system that relies on professional qualifications instead of political influence when nominating Justices and judges to be selected to fill vacancies that occur between judicial elections."

- Removes Governor's power to appoint judges when there is an opening between elections.
- Gives NC Legislature the power to appoint a commission to nominate a list of judges.
- Gives NC Legislature the power to choose two names to send to the Governor for approval of one appointment.
- Legislature could add two Supreme Court seats in a special session, potentially shifting the balance of the court.

### ETHICS AND ELECTIONS

"Constitutional amendment to establish a bipartisan Board of Ethics and Elections to administer ethics and election laws, to clarify the appointment authority of the Legislative and the Judicial Branches, and to prohibit legislators from serving on boards and commissions exercising executive or judicial authority."

- Removes Governor's power to make appointments to Boards and Commissions (current law).
- Transfers power from Governor to NC Legislature power to make appointments to all Boards and Commissions.
- Reduces current 9 member Elections Board to 8 members, each party gets to appoint 4 members. An even number of members appointed by the majority and minority party may result in tie votes, affecting issues like limiting early voting.

### VICTIMS BILL OF RIGHTS

"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."

- Expands constitutional rights of crime victims.
- Right to receive timely notice of court proceedings, to be heard and present at any court proceedings, to restitution in a timely manner, to receive information about the conviction and sentence of the accused; to receive notification of escape, release, proposed parole or pardon of the accused; and to present the victim's views and concerns when taking an action that could release the accused.

### RIGHT TO HUNT AND FISH

"Constitutional amendment protecting the right of the people to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife."

- Creates a constitutional right to hunt and fish.
- This is already a right of North Carolinians, with no known threats.

For more information and resources, visit: [youcanvote.org/vote2018](http://youcanvote.org/vote2018)