

# Fast Facts About Proposed 2018 Constitutional Amendments For more information, visit [democracync.org](http://democracync.org)

## What the amendments say

*\*Captions for illustration purposes only.*

### (Voter Photo ID Restriction Amendment\*)

FOR  AGAINST

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

## What each amendment does

*(Updated as of Aug. 27, 2018 - for the latest, visit [demnc.co/amendments](http://demnc.co/amendments))*

- Hands legislators a 'blank check' to choose what photo IDs are acceptable to vote. The last ID law didn't include common forms of ID like student or employee IDs, and was thrown out by the courts for **discriminating against Black voters with "surgical precision."**
- **Could prevent more than 200,000 eligible voters without photo ID from voting**, including disabled, veteran, and elderly voters.
- Creates a permanent voting restriction that could **cost taxpayers tens of millions of dollars**, at the expense of other needs.
- **Makes our state an extreme outlier.** Only Mississippi has a strict photo ID mandate in its constitution. **This amendment is worse.**

### (Income Tax Cap Amendment\*)

FOR  AGAINST

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

- Provides a permanent tax shift to **help the rich at the expense of everyone else.**
- **Forces lawmakers to increase other taxes**, such as property and sales taxes which disproportionately burden working families.
- **Hurts our ability to fund vital public needs like roads and schools.**

### (Judicial Appointments Amendment\*)

FOR  AGAINST

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.

- Lets legislators pick judges who would **rubber stamp their agenda**, including discriminatory voting restrictions and voting maps.
- Opens the door for legislators to add judicial seats or try to impeach judges so they can **fill "vacancies" with their friends.**
- Brings us one step closer to legislative threats to **end voters' ability to elect judges altogether.**

### (Elections and Ethics Amendment\*)

FOR  AGAINST

Constitutional amendment to establish an eight-member Bipartisan Board of Ethics and Elections Enforcement in the Constitution to administer ethics and elections law.

- Would lead to an eight-member state elections board, meaning **partisan gridlock and less ballot access for voters.**
- Lets legislators change the constitution to get their way. **A prior version of the same law was rejected by the N.C. Supreme Court.**
- **Brings an unnecessary change** — North Carolinians already have a nine-member, bipartisan state elections board, with one Unaffiliated member, four Democrats, and four Republicans.

### (Victims' Rights Amendment\*)

FOR  AGAINST

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."

- Ignores our state's existing, **robust victim's rights laws.**
- Creates a two-tiered system of justice that would **benefit the rich and delay justice for everyone.**
- **Costs tens of millions of dollars per year to implement** with no details on where that money will come from.

### (Hunting and Fishing Amendment\*)

FOR  AGAINST

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

- **Benefits the corporate gun lobby.**
- Recreates protections that already exist, with no known threats.
- **Deceives voters into thinking their rights are under attack** for the sole purpose of drawing certain voters to the polls.

## The Basics

The N.C. General Assembly approved six constitutional amendments to appear at the end of the 2018 General Election ballot. Each includes a short caption (“constitutional amendment”) and ballot language set by lawmakers. Voters will be asked to vote ‘FOR’ or ‘AGAINST’ each amendment.

If approved, these vague amendments would permanently change the N.C. Constitution, preventing future governors and legislatures from making changes alone. Current legislators would have a “blank check” to fill in the details of these constitutional changes after voters had voted.

## Read the Fine Print

While the amendments might sound good at first, it's important to dig deeper before you vote. These proposed constitutional amendments range from unnecessary to dangerous, with little known about the details, the costs, and how many North Carolinians will be discriminated against in the process. What we do know is that many of these proposals are ones we've seen before, including amendments that:

- give the legislature unprecedented control over our elections and courts;
- let legislators handpick judges who would rubber stamp their agenda;
- allow lawmakers to discriminate against voters based on race for political gain; and
- give permanent tax breaks to the rich and corporate interests at the expense of working families.

As a result, all five living North Carolina Governors and all six living N.C. Supreme Court Chief Justices have opposed amendments, dozens of state and national experts and newspapers have already editorialized against them, and a grassroots movement is building statewide to defeat them.

## We Deserve Better

Ask yourself: what issues matter most to me and my family? A good education? Access to healthcare? Basic needs? All of these amendments are at best a diversion from these issues and at worst a direct obstacle to our most pressing concerns. Whether you care about textbooks or roads, these amendments are a costly, unnecessary, and dishonest distraction from the real issues we face.

We deserve better. And a first step to getting what we want is defeating these amendments this fall.

## It's Our Turn

All voters have a chance to decide the fate of constitutional amendments this fall. Voting against the amendments not only sends a strong message that we deserve better, but also provides us with an opportunity to begin working for something better. It's our turn to set the course for policies in our state and unite against efforts to hurt North Carolinians.

**Pledge to Vote AGAINST Dishonest Constitutional Amendments: [demnc.co/voterpledge](http://demnc.co/voterpledge)**

