



Why Workers Should Vote No on all 6 Constitutional Amendments

The North Carolina General Assembly has been working to consolidate its power through racist gerrymandering of election maps and taking away powers from the Governor and his agencies. After many judges opposed the state legislature's unconstitutional maneuvers to support big business, attack democratic rights, and cut basic public services, the legislature is now changing the election/selection process of judges across the state.

Along with a string of anti-worker, anti-people bills, the General Assembly also has passed laws that would add six (6) constitutional amendments to the ballot in the November 2018 elections. The NC General Assembly did this because they know that workers are upset at the policies of the Trump Administration and that voters will likely elect more progressives to the US Congress and state legislatures in the mid-term elections. So, in an effort to encourage their right-wing base to vote in November, they are putting these "social issues" on the ballot.

FOR **Amendment #1: Right to Hunt, Fish, and Harvest Wildlife**
 AGAINST This amendment is a charade. No rights to hunt and fish are currently being threatened. The amendment's language comes from a template suggested by the National Rifle Association. If passed, this amendment could restrict Sunday hunting laws.

FOR **Amendment #2: Rights of Victims of Crime**
 AGAINST North Carolina already has a victims' rights Constitutional amendment, so this amendment is unnecessary. Worse, in other states where this amendment has passed, county courts have noticed sharp increases in administrative costs and time.

FOR **Amendment #3: Bipartisan State Board of Ethics and Elections Enforcement**
 AGAINST This amendment is a power grab by legislators that will take hundreds of important appointments away from the Executive Branch – powers the Executive Branch has had for over 47 years. This amendment reduces the number of members on the Board of Ethics and Elections, which ensures fair and free elections in North Carolina.

FOR **Amendment #4: Selection for Judicial Vacancies**
 AGAINST Under our current law, the Governor (elected statewide by a majority of voters) has the authority to appoint judges to judicial vacancies. This proposed Constitutional amendment strips the Governor of that power and puts it in the hands of a "merit commission" composed of a few legislators elected only by voters in their home districts. This legislative power grab will result in the partisan selection of judges. Additionally, our justice system could become even more overburdened by a shortage of judges, delaying trial dates and keeping people in jail longer as they wait for trial.

FOR **Amendment #5: Cap On Income Tax Rate**
 AGAINST This proposed amendment makes it impossible for future legislatures to adjust income tax rates for the unforeseen consequences of recessions or natural disasters like hurricanes. No one wants tax increases, but this amendment would benefit only the wealthiest citizens. **It would threaten public services like education, transportation, and infrastructure as well as many state workers' jobs.** If an income tax cap is imposed, local governments will likely have to raise property taxes, service fees, and sales taxes – which affect low-income families more than wealthy ones.

FOR **Amendment #6: Voter ID**
 AGAINST This amendment would require a photo ID to vote. It includes no explanation of which photo IDs will meet the requirements and which won't. Requiring photo ID to vote has long been called a "poll tax" that limits poor, Black, elderly and other working people's access to the polls. This is voter suppression.