

Official Explanation of the Right to Hunt and Fish Proposed Constitutional Amendment

(Session Law 2018-96)

Question as it will appear on the ballot:

For Against

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

Right to Hunt and Fish

This amendment would acknowledge the right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife, and to use traditional methods to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife. The amendment does not define “traditional methods.”

This right would be subject to laws passed by the Legislature and rules (i) to promote wildlife conservation and management and (ii) to preserve the future of hunting and fishing. If it passes, the amendment will not affect any laws regarding trespassing, property rights or eminent domain. The amendment does not address its effect on local laws concerning public safety or on commercial hunting and fishing.

The amendment would also establish that public hunting and fishing are a preferred means of managing and controlling wildlife.

This is just a short summary of the amendment. To see the actual amendment before voting on it, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/ncsos677>.

Adopted August 6, 2018, by the NC Constitutional Amendments Publication Commission.

Elaine F. Marshall, Secretary of State, Commission Chair
Josh Stein, Attorney General, Member
Paul Y. Coble, Legislative Services Officer, Member

Official Explanation of the Proposed Changes to Current Victims' Rights

Constitutional Amendment

(Session Law 2018-110)

Question as it will appear on the ballot:

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.

Changes to Current Victims' Rights Amendment

Currently, the North Carolina Constitution guarantees victims of certain crimes the following rights:

- The right to be informed of and present at proceedings related to the accused.
- The right to be heard at sentencing of the accused.
- The right to receive restitution.
- The right to information regarding the crime, how the criminal justice system works, and the rights and services available to victims.
- The right to be informed about the final result of the case.
- The right to be informed of an escape, release, or pardon.
- The right to express views to the Governor or appropriate agency considering release.
- The right to confer with the prosecutor.

If this amendment is adopted, the Constitution would also guarantee victims the following rights:

- To be treated with dignity and respect.
- Reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of a proceeding, upon request.
- To be present at any proceeding, upon request.
- To be reasonably heard at additional kinds of court hearings.
- Restitution in a reasonably timely manner, when ordered by the court.
- Information about the crime, upon request.
- To reasonably confer with the prosecutor.

Today, victims have legal rights if the crime was a major felony, certain domestic violence cases, or one of several other kinds of serious crimes. The amendment would expand the types of offenses that trigger victims' rights to include all crimes against the person and felony property crimes. These rights would also apply in these cases if committed by juveniles.

This amendment directs the Legislature to create a procedure, by motion to the court, for a victim to assert his or her rights. Nothing in this proposed amendment creates a claim against the State or allows the victim to challenge any decision the court makes. The defendant may not use failure to provide these rights as a ground for relief in any civil or criminal matter.

The public fiscal note that accompanied this legislation estimates that these changes to our justice system will cost about \$11 million per year.

This is just a short summary of the amendment. To see the actual amendment before voting on it, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/ncsos551>.

Adopted August 6, 2018, by the NC Constitutional Amendments Publication Commission.

Elaine F. Marshall, Secretary of State, Commission Chair
Josh Stein, Attorney General, Member
Paul Y. Coble, Legislative Services Officer, Member

Official Explanation of the Proposed Change to the Current Constitutional Provision Setting
the Maximum State Income Tax Rate

(Session Law 2018-119)

Question as it will appear on the ballot:

For Against

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

Cap Maximum State Income Tax at 7%

The current maximum personal and corporate income tax rate in our State Constitution is 10%. This proposed amendment makes the new limit 7%.

This proposed amendment does not reduce your current taxes. It does not change the current individual income tax rate of 5.499%, and it does not change the current corporate income tax rate of 3%. Instead, it limits how much the state income tax rate could go up.

This proposed amendment applies only to state income taxes. It does not affect sales taxes, property taxes, or federal taxes.

Income taxes are one of the ways State government raises the money to pay for core services such as public education, public health, and public safety.

The proposed amendment does not include any exceptions. Therefore, in times of disaster or recession, the State could have to take measures such as cutting core services, raising sales taxes or fees, or increasing borrowing.

This is just a short summary of the amendment. To see the actual amendment before voting on it, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/ncsos75>.

Adopted August 23, 2018, by the NC Constitutional Amendments Publication Commission.

Elaine F. Marshall, Secretary of State, Commission Chair
Josh Stein, Attorney General, Member
Paul Y. Coble, Legislative Services Officer, Member

Official Explanation of the Proposed Constitutional Amendment to
Require Photographic Identification to Vote

(Session Law 2018-128)

Question as it will appear on the ballot:

For Against

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

Require Photographic Identification to Vote

This amendment requires you to show photographic identification to a poll-worker before you can vote in person. It does not apply to absentee voting.

The Legislature would make laws providing the details of acceptable and unacceptable forms of photographic identification after passage of the proposed amendment. The Legislature would be authorized to establish exceptions to the requirement to present photographic identification before voting. However, it is not required to make any exceptions.

There are no further details at this time on how voters could acquire valid photographic identification for the purposes of voting. There is no official estimate of how much this proposal would cost if it is approved.

This is just a short summary of the amendment. To see the actual amendment before voting on it, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/ncsos1092>.

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Elaine F. Marshall, Secretary of State, Commission Chair
Josh Stein, Attorney General, Member
Paul Y. Coble, Legislative Services Officer, Member