



# Vote NO: August 13 Federal Funds Constitutional Amendment Questions



This toolkit was created for local Leagues and other groups/individuals to inform Wisconsinites about the constitutional amendment questions on the August 13 ballot and why they should **VOTE NO**. For questions or comments, email [mcarmichael@lwvwi.org](mailto:mcarmichael@lwvwi.org).

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## Overview

Wisconsin voters will be asked two questions to amend (change) the constitution on their August ballot. These potential changes will impact both the process for distributing federal money, and who has the power to make those decisions. These large sweeping changes will impact a wide range of issues voters care about, from education to the environment to how quickly the government can respond to emergencies (like a public health crisis or a natural disaster).

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin knows that if these amendments are passed they will be harmful to the people of our state. We urge voters to VOTE NO on both questions.

Voters must be prepared to answer these questions in the August 13, 2024 election.

The questions on voters' ballots [↓](#)



**✗ Question 1: “*Delegation of appropriation power.* Shall section 35 (1) of article IV of the constitution be created to provide that the legislature may not delegate its sole power to determine how moneys shall be appropriated?”**

**What does a “Yes” or a “No” vote mean?**

**+**A “yes” vote supports amending the state constitution to prohibit the legislature from delegating its power to appropriate money.

**—**A “NO” vote opposes amending the state constitution to prohibit the legislature from delegating its power to appropriate money.

*Read more about what this question means* [→ Ballotpedia Question 1](#)

**✗ Question 2: “*Allocation of federal moneys.* Shall section 35 (2) of article IV of the constitution be created to prohibit the governor from allocating any federal moneys the governor accepts on behalf of the state without the approval of the legislature by joint resolution or as provided by legislative rule?”**

**What does a “Yes” or a “No” vote mean?**

**+**A “yes” vote supports amending the state constitution to require legislative approval from both the senate and assembly before the governor can expend federal money appropriated to the state.

**—**A “no” vote opposes this amendment, thereby allowing the governor to accept and allocate federal funds without seeking an approval vote from the state legislature.

*Read more about what this question means* [→ Ballotpedia Question 2](#)

**Stance:** The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin opposes these constitutional amendment questions and urges voters to **VOTE NO on both questions.**

## Who Opposes These Questions

**Organizations:** League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Education Association Council, Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments & Boards, Wisconsin Conservation Voters, Wisconsin Public Health Association, Wisconsin Democracy Campaign



[Ballotpedia Question 1](#) & [Ballotpedia Question 2](#)

## Why You Should VOTE NO on BOTH Constitutional Amendment Ballot Questions

[>>Read a breakdown of the questions separately](#)

### Reasons to Vote No on Question 1 and Question 2

1. Wisconsinites deserve a well-resourced government that is able to fund necessary programs and infrastructure like our roads in a timely manner (especially in emergencies). These changes to our state constitution would add red tape and slow the government's ability to respond to emergencies when we need help the most – harming our communities and Wisconsin families.
2. Our tax dollars go toward federal funds that support our schools, infrastructure, parks, health care, renters, small businesses, public benefits and so much more. They provide relief to Wisconsinites in urgent times of crises such as natural or economic disasters and public health emergencies. When Wisconsin gets federal funds, it's our money coming back to us.
3. Our current legislators were elected under non representative voting maps which means they are not responsive to Wisconsin voters. In times of need Wisconsinites cannot afford to have their relief held up in legislative gridlock.
4. It is easier for Wisconsin voters to hold the governor accountable for how federal funds are spent than the entire legislature. The governor is accountable to the whole state. The governor was elected in a fair, statewide election and entrusted to deal with federal money.
5. These changes are not fixing a problem. Our laws already give legislators a say in how tax dollars are spent through the state budget-making process. This change does not belong in our state constitution.

### Messaging

- Wisconsinites take care of one another. ❤️ When natural disasters like floods or tornados hit our communities, we need relief money quickly. These proposed amendments could drag out the process and delay necessary federal funds from getting to the folks who need it. #VoteNoWisconsin ❌ on both constitutional amendments this August.



- At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wisconsin State Legislature was one of the least active in the country. Legislators refused to come to work to deliver relief for Wisconsinites. Fortunately, our Governor could quickly distribute emergency federal funds to the communities who needed it most. We need to ensure the governor can continue to distribute these funds efficiently and effectively, without unnecessary red tape. That's why we're voting NO on both constitutional amendments this August. #VoteNoWisconsin ❌
- When natural disasters strike 🌪️, we don't have time to wait for the slow-moving legislature to get funds to communities in need. These measures would deprive our communities of needed resources while our legislators play partisan games such as gaveling in and out of session thus failing to govern at all. That's why we're voting NO on both constitutional amendments this August. #VoteNoWisconsin
- Our federal tax dollars support Wisconsin families, farmers, renters, small businesses, food banks, public benefits, the arts, education and more. 💰 Our tax dollars support Wisconsinites, make Wisconsin stronger and help us in urgent times of crises. These measures would add more red tape that would slow down our money coming back to us. #VoteNoWisconsin ❌ on both constitutional amendments this August.
- When elected officials try to pass knee-jerk laws that affect the distribution of federal funds to the programs that need it most, they are preventing the governor from fulfilling one of their most important duties 🟡. In August, we're voting no ❌ to both amendments because we know how important it is to have an efficient and timely funding process. #VoteNoWisconsin
- Lawmakers serving under gerrymandered, nonrepresentative voting maps want to take control of our state's federal funds by preventing the governor from making key decisions on how to allocate resources to the people and communities of Wisconsin. We're voting NO ❌ on these amendments because we know how important it is to have a just, efficient and timely funding process when Wisconsinites need it most. #VoteNoWisconsin
- Our state relies on critical funding for our schools, infrastructure, parks, health care, and so much more. We're voting NO ❌ on both constitutional amendments in August so that our governor can accept and allocate federal funds without being stopped or delayed by the legislature ⏰. #VoteNoWisconsin
- For our state to be well-funded, we need our government to accept federal funding and disperse it quickly. This measure would enable our legislature- voted into office under gerrymandered, nonrepresentative voting maps - to deprive our communities of needed resources. That's why we're voting NO ❌ on both constitutional amendments in August. #VoteNoWisconsin
- This August, Wisconsinites will be voting on two constitutional amendment questions. We're calling for voters to #VoteNo ❌ on BOTH because these changes



would tie the hands of the governor we elected and prevent essential federal funding from getting to the Wisconsinites who need it. #VoteNoWisconsin on both constitutional amendments this August.

- Like we saw this April, constitutional amendment questions on the ballot are broad-sweeping and confusing – this is no accident! Clerks, election heroes and voting rights organizations are now dealing with uncertainty and asking for legal clarification because the harmful April constitutional amendment questions passed. Wisconsin says NO to confusing, harmful and sweeping changes to our constitution. We're voting NO on both amendments this August.  
#VoteNoWisconsin ❌
- The Constitution ensures that the three branches of government are equal and have their own set of duties. Our government is like a three-legged stool – take out a leg and everything comes crashing down. The legislature wants to take away the governor's duties for themselves. This will create an imbalance in our government. That's why we're voting NO on both constitutional amendments this August.  
#VoteNoWisconsin ❌

## Spanish Messaging

- Los habitantes de Wisconsin nos cuidamos los unos a los otros. Cuando nos azotan desastres naturales tales como inundaciones o tornados, necesitamos ayuda de forma inmediata. Las propuestas enmiendas a la constitución podrían alargar innecesariamente el proceso y retrasar la llegada de los fondos federales a quienes más los necesiten. Este agosto **#VoteNoWisconsin** a ambas enmiendas constitucionales.
- En el punto álgido de la pandemia de COVID-19, la legislatura del Estado de Wisconsin fue una de las menos activas del país. Los legisladores se negaron a ir a trabajar para brindar ayuda a los habitantes de Wisconsin. Afortunadamente, nuestro gobernador pudo distribuir rápidamente fondos federales de emergencia a las comunidades más necesitadas. Debemos asegurarnos de que el gobernador pueda continuar distribuyendo estos fondos de manera eficiente y efectiva, sin trámites burocráticos innecesarios. Por lo tanto, este agosto votemos **NO** a ambas enmiendas constitucionales. **#VoteNoWisconsin**.
- No es ningún secreto que la legislatura de Wisconsin dedica más tiempo a manipulaciones partidistas que a actuar sobre los temas que nos preocupan a la mayoría de los habitantes de Wisconsin. Cuando ocurren desastres naturales, no podemos esperar a que nuestra lentísima legislatura lleve fondos a las comunidades necesitadas. Estas enmiendas privarían a nuestras comunidades de los recursos necesarios mientras nuestros legisladores practican sus juegos



partidistas tales como el cierre arbitrario de las sesiones, antes de empezar impidiendo así cualquier toma de decisiones, con lo cual, no gobiernan en absoluto. Es por eso que votaremos **NO** a ambas enmiendas constitucionales este agosto.

### **#VoteNoWisconsin**

- En Wisconsin, nuestros impuestos federales apoyan a las familias, agricultores, inquilinos, pequeñas empresas, bancos de alimentos, beneficios públicos, las artes, la educación y más. Nuestros impuestos nos apoyan, fortalecen nuestro Estado y nos ayudan en tiempos de crisis urgentes. Las enmiendas propuestas añadirían más trámites burocráticos que ralentizarían el retorno de nuestro dinero. Este agosto **#VoteNoWisconsin** a ambas enmiendas constitucionales.
- Cuando los funcionarios electos intentan aprobar leyes propuestas sin la debida consideración previa que afectan la distribución de fondos federales a los programas que más los necesitan, están impidiendo que el gobernador cumpla con uno de sus deberes más importantes. En agosto votaremos **NO** a ambas enmiendas porque sabemos la importancia que tiene contar con un proceso de financiación eficiente y oportuno. **#VoteNoWisconsin**
- Los legisladores elegidos bajo mapas de votación no representativos y manipulados (*gerrymandered*) quieren tomar el control de los fondos federales de nuestro estado impidiéndole así al gobernador tomar decisiones claves tales como la asignación de recursos a la población y comunidades de Wisconsin. Votaremos **NO** a estas enmiendas porque sabemos cuán importante es contar con un proceso de financiación justo, eficiente y oportuno para cubrir las necesidades más cruciales de los habitantes de Wisconsin. **#VoteNoWisconsin**
- Nuestro Estado depende de fondos críticos para nuestras escuelas, infraestructura, parques, atención médica y mucho más. Votaremos **NO** a ambas enmiendas constitucionales en agosto, para que nuestro gobernador pueda aceptar y asignar fondos federales sin que la legislatura lo detenga ni lo retrase. **#VoteNoWisconsin**
- Para una buena financiación de nuestro Estado, necesitamos que el gobierno acepte fondos federales y los distribuya rápidamente. Las enmiendas a la constitución propuestas a votación, por el contrario, permitirían a nuestra legislatura -elegida bajo mapas de votación no representativos y manipulados- privar a nuestras comunidades de los recursos necesarios. Por eso votaremos **NO** a ambas enmiendas constitucionales en agosto. **#VoteNoWisconsin**
- Hay dos preguntas que los habitantes de Wisconsin deberemos responder en agosto con nuestro voto para una posible enmienda constitucional. Hacemos un llamado a los votantes a votar **NO**. **#VoteNo X** a **AMBOS** cambios porque éstos atarían las manos del gobernador que hemos elegido e impedirían la llegada de los fondos federales esenciales que los habitantes de Wisconsin tanto necesitamos. Este agosto **#VoteNoWisconsin** a ambas enmiendas constitucionales.
- Como vimos en abril, las preguntas sobre enmiendas constitucionales en la boleta electoral son amplias y confusas: ¡esto no es casual! Los secretarios, los héroes electorales y las organizaciones de derechos electorales ahora deben lidiar con la incertidumbre y pedir aclaraciones legales desde que se aprobaron las peligrosas



cuestiones de la enmienda constitucional de abril. Wisconsin dice **NO** a los cambios confusos, dañinos y radicales en nuestra constitución. Votaremos **NO** a ambas enmiendas este agosto. **#VoteNoWisconsin** ✘

- La Constitución garantiza la igualdad de los tres poderes del gobierno y define las obligaciones de cada uno. Nuestro gobierno es como un taburete de tres patas: si se le quita una de ellas, todo se derrumba. La legislatura pretende apropiarse de las funciones propias del gobernador. Esto creará un desequilibrio en nuestro gobierno. Por eso este agosto votaremos **NO** a ambas enmiendas constitucionales. **#VoteNoWisconsin**.

## Graphics

[>> view and download all graphics](#)



## Newsletter Blurb

[>> view and download newsletter graphic](#)

### Vote No: August 2024 Constitutional Amendment Questions

No matter our race, background or zip code, as Wisconsinites, we pride ourselves on taking care of one another. Whether it's helping shovel a neighbor's driveway during a snowstorm, offering child care in times of need or supporting local businesses, we step up for one another. We expect our government to do the same with our tax dollars and provide quick relief to Wisconsinites in need.

Unfortunately, the proposed constitutional amendment questions on the ballot this August threaten to delay the federal funds we rely on during times of crisis.



Our federal tax dollars are essential – supporting everything from farmers and small businesses to food banks and education. Adding unnecessary red tape will only slow down the process, keeping crucial resources from reaching those in need. We must ensure that our governor can allocate these funds efficiently and effectively.

When lawmakers serving under gerrymandered, nonrepresentative voting maps pass knee-jerk laws, it hinders our governor's ability to act. This August, join us in voting NO on both constitutional amendment questions to maintain a just, efficient, and timely distribution of federal funds process for all Wisconsinites.

When Wisconsin gets federal funds, it's our tax money we paid to the IRS coming back to us. Don't let the legislature create obstacles for our communities and play partisan games with our money. We can't afford delays when crises and disasters strike.

Vote NO this August to protect our communities and ensure our governor can continue to provide the timely support we depend on. #VoteNoWisconsin on both constitutional amendments.

Together, we can keep Wisconsin moving forward.

## Actions

- Watch the webinar: [Why Vote No: August 13 Statewide Constitutional Amendment Questions](#)
- Share the toolkit: [bit.ly/AugustVoteNo](http://bit.ly/AugustVoteNo)
- Distribute and share these [printable flyers](#) in your community
- Post #VoteNo content on your personal social media accounts including Facebook groups and NextDoor
- Send out a [postcard](#)
- [Double-sided handout](#)
- Script for phone calling/canvassing: [☰ Constitutional Amendment Vote NO Script](#)
- Write a letter-to-the-editor
  - [Templates](#)
  - Send to your local media
    - [📺 Media Relations Training](#)
  - Have questions? Got published? Let us know!
- Hold a discussion circle



- Have a speaker join your event/meeting
  - Email [lwwwisconsin@lwwwi.org](mailto:lwwwisconsin@lwwwi.org) to inquire about speakers available
- Text your friends, family, and others in your network
  - Sample message: *Hey! Just wanted to make sure you're ready to vote on August 13. A lot of people don't know that there will be 2 questions on their ballot to amend the constitution. These changes are BAD! We need to ensure our government has the ability to respond quickly in an emergency (like tornadoes or storms) and to bring Wisconsin tax dollars back to Wisconsinites. That's why I'm voting NO to both questions and hope you will too. I'd be happy to send you more info if you're interested.*
    - [GIF to share](#)
- More actions and volunteer opportunities to come in the near future!
  - [Subscribe to LWVWI's newsletter to stay informed](#)

## Other Resources

- [Ballotpedia Question 1](#) and [Ballotpedia Question 2](#)
- [Joint Statement: Wisconsin Organizations Urge Voters to Vote No on August Constitutional Amendments](#)
- [This is What Democracy Sounds Like](#) podcast by LWVWI on constitutional amendments
- [Map of WI Federal Funds](#)
- [Constitutional Corner](#)
- [LWVWI Vote No Landing Page](#)
- Wisconsin constitutional amendments seek more power for Legislature, [via Wisconsin Watch, June 24, 2024](#)
- Review finds Wisconsin has least active full-time legislature in nation since pandemic [via WisPolitics](#)
- Did Wisconsin have one of the least active full-time legislatures in the country during the pandemic? [via Wisconsin Watch](#)
- [Gov. Evers' Acceptance & Distribution of Non-Emergency Federal Funds WI 2023](#)