

Vote 'NO' on the Anti-Equity State Constitutional Amendment

What You Will See on the Ballot

Governmental Entity Discrimination Prohibited. Shall section 27 of article 1 of the constitution be created to prohibit governmental entities in the state from discriminating against, or granting preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in public employment, public education, public contracting, or public administration.

Why Does the League Oppose this Amendment?

- It's misleading. The title and wording of the ballot question lead voters to believe that this amendment would stop state and local agencies from discriminating against people. The amendment would actually prohibit public entities from granting "preferential treatment" to women and people of color, as well as those who have first language skills other than English.
- Wisconsin has among the worst disparities in the nation for Black people for school achievement, incarceration, median income, infant mortality, entrepreneurship rate, and life expectancy. This amendment would make that worse.
- Women and people of color suffer discrimination in hiring and promotion, access to housing and health care, and under-funding of schools in certain neighborhoods and cities. Targeted initiatives are required to address needs for increasing equity and inclusion.

What Would This Amendment Do If It Passes?

- Make public equity-based programs unconstitutional, including:
 - Health and Environmental Equity: Programs that address higher rates of chronic illness, disease, and mortality; maternal and infant mortality for the Black population
 - Education: Programs that address K-12 accommodations, curriculum, UW admissions, scholarships, grants, courses, textbooks
 - Community-Action Programs: Head Start and social-support networks for operating food banks, homeless shelters, and domestic violence shelters
 - Government, Businesses, and Contracts: Workplace initiatives for women, public contracts for certified minority-owned firms, equitable hiring, promotion and retention, such as the WI Supplier Diversity Program and WI Fast Forward program
- Eliminate initiatives such as the requirement for Hmong and Asian history in our schools, Holocaust education, the Racial Equity Budget Tool, and any other equity efforts. Eliminate protection for gay marriage and other LGBTQ+ rights.
- Increase censorship of materials and topics related to diversity and the history of discrimination in libraries, school curricula, public museums and websites.

Vote 'NO' on the Religious Institutions State Constitutional Amendment

What You Will See on the Ballot

Question 1: "Freedom to gather in places of worship during an emergency. Shall section 18 of article I of the constitution, which deals with religious liberty, be amended to prohibit the state or a political subdivision of the state from ordering the closure of, or forbidding gatherings in, places of worship in response to a state of emergency, including a public health emergency?"

What does this Amendment Mean?

- If you vote yes, you are agreeing that places of worship can remain open, and cannot be ordered to close during states of emergency or public health emergencies.

Why LWVDC Opposes the Amendment?

- It would bring increased risk to the health and well-being of our community. Places of worship that remain open during a public health emergency, can spread disease far beyond their membership.
- Children, the elderly, health-compromised family and neighbors would be unnecessarily subject to contagion.
- Colleagues, emergency health workers and other members of the community would also be at risk for contamination following gatherings at places of worship.
- As we saw in the COVID pandemic, places of worship can hold services and meetings online, reducing the risk of spreading disease during a public health emergency.

Vote 'NO' on the Governor's Veto Authority State Constitutional Amendment

What You Will See on the Ballot

- Partial veto. Shall section 10 (1) (c) of article V of the constitution be amended to prohibit the governor, in exercising his or her partial veto authority, from creating or increasing or authorizing the creation or increase of any tax or fee?

What does this Amendment Mean?

- If you vote yes, you are agreeing that the Governor cannot use the partial veto authority to create or increase any tax or fee.

Why LWVDC Opposes the Amendment

- It would make it harder for any future governor to right the wrongs of any legislature that fails to provide sufficient revenues to meet our shared priorities – education-related or otherwise.
- It would change the balance of power between the Governor and the legislature, giving more power to the legislature.