

The League of Women Voters of North Dakota

2018 Voter Guide

FOR NORTH DAKOTA'S GENERAL ELECTION - NOVEMBER 6, 2018

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND STATUTORY INITIATIVES

Measure

1

Ethics and Transparency

Description: The measure, upon voter approval, would establish a North Dakota ethics commission and enact provisions related to lobbying, conflicts of interest, and campaign finance.

A 5-member ethics commission, appointed to four-year terms by the governor, senate majority and senate minority leaders, would be responsible for adopting rules related to corruption, elections, and lobbying, as well as reporting and investigating alleged violations.

The measure would place prohibitions on gift giving and campaign contributions by lobbyists. It would also restrict public officials from acting as lobbyists and require officials to disclose conflicts of interests in certain proceedings. The measure would also direct the legislative assembly to enact campaign finance laws that require electronically accessible public disclosure of funds spent to influence statewide elections and ballot measures.

A YES vote: Will add a new Article to the North Dakota Constitution establishing a North Dakota ethics commission. The Article will create restrictions on lobbyists, create provisions designed to prevent conflicts of interest for government officials, and require campaign finance information to be publicly accessible.

A NO vote: Results in no change

Measure

2

Qualification to Vote

Description: The measure, upon voter approval, would clarify that only U.S. citizens and North Dakota residents can vote in federal, state, local, or school elections.

This initiated measure would amend Article II of the North Dakota Constitution to state that “only a citizen” of the United States is a qualified elector, instead of the current provision that states that “every citizen” of the United States is a qualified elector.

The measure would also amend the North Dakota Constitution to state that only a qualified elector may vote in any general, special, or primary election for a federal, statewide, state legislative, district, county, township, city, school district office, or ballot measure.

A YES vote: Will amend section 1 of Article II of the North Dakota Constitution to change the wording from every citizen of the United States, who is at least 18 years of age and a North Dakota resident, is qualified to vote, to the wording that only a citizen of the United States, who is at least 18 years of age and a North Dakota resident, is qualified to vote. Section 3 will also be added to Article II that states that only a qualified voter may vote in any type of election in North Dakota.

A NO vote: Results in no change to the current wording.

Measure

3

Legalization of Marijuana

Description: The measure, upon voter approval, would legalize recreational use of marijuana in North Dakota to anyone over the age of 21. It would also create penalties for the possession or distribution to or by any individuals under age 21. This measure would supersede all other provisions in state statutes that conflict. In addition, the measure would create an automatic expungement process for individuals with convictions for a controlled substance that has been legalized, as well as eliminate the state’s immunity from damages resulting from expungement lawsuits.

In 2016, a ballot initiative was approved by voters in North Dakota to legalize the use of medical marijuana and develop procedures for regulating medical marijuana growing, dispensing, and usage. Currently, both medical and recreational marijuana use are illegal under federal law.

A YES vote: Will amend section 19-03.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code by removing hashish, marijuana, and tetrahydrocannabinols from the list of Schedule I controlled substances; and amend section 25-03.1-45 to provide automatic expungement of convictions from legalized controlled substances. Section 66-1.01 will also be amended to prohibit prosecution of any person over the age of 21 for any non-violent marijuana-related activity.

A NO vote: Results in no change.

Measure

4

Civil Service and Parks

Description: The measure, upon voter approval, would require that personalized license plates be provided to volunteer emergency responders, such as volunteer firefighters and emergency medical service volunteers. The license plates would be free of charge and would allow free entrance by volunteer emergency responders to any state park.

A YES vote: Will add a new section to chapter 39-04 of the North Dakota Century Code requiring the North Dakota Department of Transportation to issue personalized vehicle plates to volunteer emergency responders which will allow free entry to North Dakota state parks.

A NO vote: Results in no change.

For further information on these measures and voting in North Dakota, please visit www.vote.nd.gov or call 701.328.4146.

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