

Vote NO on ALL Three Constitutional Amendments
Lincoln County Democratic Party
Position Paper on Amendments November 3rd, 2026

Summary:

VOTE NO on ALL 3 Constitutional Amendments on the ballot this November

Republican State Legislators have placed three constitutional amendments on the ballot this fall that are designed to fire up a MAGA base that is disgruntled, while at the same time stealing the right to make local decisions on local issues from county and city governments, and transfer more of the burden of funding government away from the rich to the average North Carolinian further jeopardizing healthcare, schools, and competent food inspections..

#1 - Voter ID Amendment. Does nothing more on ID's than what is being done already and risks making it more difficult for overseas military to vote. Overseas military voters and all mail-in voters are already now required to submit a copy of their IDs with their absentee ballots, though the military have been given wide latitude as to what constitutes a valid ID. By putting the requirement into the constitution, it will be harder for the laws to be clarified or improved in any way by the state legislature. It would also remove some of the leeway given to the military when voting. Republicans say the measure will help prevent voter fraud, but there is no evidence of widespread voter fraud in North Carolina. The far-right Heritage Foundation went looking for fraud and found only 123 confirmed cases in North Carolina since 1986.

#2 - State income tax rate amendment. More tax giveaways to the ultra-rich by capping the state income tax rate at 3.5%. Constitutionally, state income tax is already capped at 7%. This measure would lower that and bar future legislators from raising it, even in a fiscal crisis. North Carolina's income tax rates are already among the lowest in the country. The higher tax rates are only applied to the very highest income earners. This measure will do nothing for the average North Carolinian already paying the lowest rates. The Trump administration is already pushing federal cuts to Medicaid and school funding, leaving states on the hook for these services. North Carolina needs more flexibility to balance the budget without making drastic cuts to people's healthcare, our schools, and food inspections. It's also likely to lead to increases in the sales tax, in fees, and property taxes, which will make average people's lives more difficult and costly. A rich person doesn't feel much if it costs \$250 more per year for vehicle registration.

#3 - Property tax amendment. Taking County and City governments' ability to manage their own business. Property taxes are set and collected by county and city governments, and there is no set rate at the state level. This third ballot measure will constitutionally require the state legislature to limit the rate county and city governments can increase property taxes. This is a gross power grab by the state legislature from local government. There will be a turn to many other kinds of revenue that are less sustainable, less predictable. Using fees and sales taxes, middle and low-income households will suddenly have a much higher burden than high-income households.

A Deeper Dive:

Vote **NO** on **ALL** three constitutional amendments

North Carolina Require Voter Identification Amendment (2026) Constitutional Amendment

- A "yes" vote supports amending the constitution to require photo identification to vote for all voters, not just those voting in person.
- A "**NO**" vote opposes requiring photo identification to vote by voting methods other than in-person voting.

Opponents include

- Officials like State Rep. Mary Harrison (D)
- Organizations like Democracy North Carolina

Arguments

- Katelin Kaiser, policy director of Democracy North Carolina: "This is another attempt to disenfranchise voters by mail, and it is working. Legislative leadership has made it more difficult for students, older people, and people who are disabled to vote by mail in North Carolina."
- Democracy North Carolina: "The voter ID law causes confusion whether or not it is the law of the land. Even after the voter ID law was overturned in the past, it continued to wreak havoc, deterring voters from the ballot box even after it had been stricken. Voter ID has a direct and disparate impact on those in the Black and brown communities. Research has found that Black voters are more likely than white voters to lack a qualifying ID. In addition, voter ID laws have been shown to be an active deterrent to voting, particularly for Black and brown voters. It's been shown that voters without ID are either unable to vote because they arrive at the polls without an ID, or more significantly, those without ID decide to not go to the polls in the first place as a result of the law."
- Bob Phillips, executive director of Common Cause: "I would be very sorry to see someone be disenfranchised because they have trouble including a copy of their photo ID with their mail-in ballot."
- An amendment for a solution in search of a problem since there have been only 123 confirmed cases of fraudulent votes being cast in North Carolina since 1986.
- Amounts to a poll tax burden for military people who have to vote by mail-in ballot and do not have an ID accepted by State Officials and would have to somehow acquire one.
- An attempt to further suppress mail-in voting.

North Carolina Reduce Income Tax Rate Cap from 7% to 3.5% Constitutional Amendment (2026)

- A **"yes"** vote supports amending the North Carolina Constitution to reduce the maximum allowable income tax rate from 7% to 3.5%.
- A **"NO"** vote opposes amending the North Carolina Constitution, thereby keeping the maximum allowable income tax rate at 7%.

Opponents include

- Officials like Gov. Josh Stein (D)
- NC Budget & Tax Center

Arguments

- Gov. Josh Stein (D): "[The amendment is] a con, a cynical shell game and a millionaire protection cap. It will not put any more money in anyone's pockets. But what it will do is make regular people pay the consequences of it next year and years into the future because it will insulate the very wealthy from ever having an increase in their income tax. We have to have a balanced budget every year when revenues are needed. You know who's going to have to pay? It's you. Regular people every time they go buy something through the sales tax."
- NC Budget & Tax Center: "A limit on the income tax rate won't keep total state and local taxes low. In reality, states with income tax limits or no income tax tend to rely more on sales taxes, property taxes, and fees to fund the programs and services that are necessary to move our communities forward. Already, North Carolina's overall tax code is regressive, asking the greatest share of the lowest income households in state and local taxes than the wealthiest households."
- Creates a windfall for the higher wage owners paying over 3.5% and does nothing for the average or typical N.C. wage earner paying less than 3.5%.
- Creates pressure on legislators to cut Medicaid, education, public safety, and law enforcement services.
- Lowering the income cap rates in 2018 have not reduced the cost of living (groceries, rent, fuel, and clothing).
- Creates pressure on localities to increase property taxes, sales taxes (regressive), and fees to fill the gap the legislators create thus making the average North Carolinian's life harder.

North Carolina Property Tax Levy Limit Constitutional Amendment (2026)

- A "yes" vote supports amending the North Carolina Constitution to require the state legislature to pass laws limiting the amount that property taxes may increase.
- A "**NO**" vote opposes amending the North Carolina Constitution to require the state legislature to pass laws limiting the amount that property taxes may increase.
- Opponents include
- Organizations like NC Budget and Tax Center
- Arguments
- Alexandra Sirota, executive director of the NC Budget & Tax Center: "A levy limit will not address the unaffordable housing costs that so many households are facing. What legislators need to do today is to invest in building more affordable housing and providing direct relief to households that are faced with unaffordable property tax bills."
- State Rep. Deb Butler (D-18): "The truth is, property taxes are not rising because cities and counties suddenly went on a wild, drunken binge and started spending like sailors. It's because of the cost shifting that we have done from this body."
- Takes away County and City governments' ability to manage for their citizens' needs.
- Likely to lead to additional fees and sales taxes which will hurt middle class and lower income households rather than higher income households.
- State Legislators will be voting to limit property tax rates in places they know nothing about and have not even seen.
- Gross over-reach by State Legislators.

Resources:

Cardinal and Pine News

https://cardinalpine.com/news/north-carolina-constitutional-amendments/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

League of Women Voters

<https://my.lwv.org/north-carolina-state/action-alert/three-constitutional-amendments-north-carolinas-2026-ballot>

Ballotpedia

https://ballotpedia.org/North_Carolina_2026_ballot_measures

NC Budget and Tax Center

<https://ncbudget.org/statement-against-state-constitutional-amendments-on-the-november-ballot-from-alexandra-sirota-executive-director-of-the-nc-budget-tax-center/>