

## Four Proposed NC Constitutional Amendments Explained

The North Carolina Constitutional Amendments Publication Commission completed work on Thursday, August 23 to create official explanations for all four of the proposed amendments to the North Carolina Constitution that have been approved to put before voters in the November 6, 2018 general election.

There were six amendments proposed by the North Carolina General Assembly during its 2018 short session. However, a Superior Court three-judge panel has removed two of those proposed amendments from continuing onto ballots at this point in time.

The Constitutional Amendments Publication Commission approved explanations for two proposed amendments on Thursday, one for an amendment concerning the income tax rate, and one for the amendment concerning photo IDs for voters appearing at polling places in person. The Commission already had completed work on explanations for proposed amendments concerning crime victim protections and hunting and fishing.

Secretary of State Elaine Marshall chairs the three-person Commission. The other members are NC Attorney General Josh Stein and the Legislative Services Officer of the NC General Assembly, Paul Coble. The Commission webpage ([www.sosnc.gov](http://www.sosnc.gov)) has information about the four currently authorized proposed amendments.

Here are the Commission's official explanations for all four of the proposed amendments currently authorized to be on North Carolina ballots in the November election:

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

**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: [tinyurl.com/ncsos677](http://tinyurl.com/ncsos677).

### 2) Official Explanation of the Proposed Changes to Current Victims' Rights Constitutional Amendment

**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: [tinyurl.com/ncsos551](http://tinyurl.com/ncsos551).

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

**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: [tinyurl.com/ncsos75](http://tinyurl.com/ncsos75).

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

**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: [tinyurl.com/ncsos1092](http://tinyurl.com/ncsos1092).

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**PARTIAL PAYMENTS ARE ACCEPTABLE**

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Please inspect your tax bill for correctness. Be sure your mailing address is accurate and all spellings are as they should be.

You may send payment to:

**Anson County Tax Collector**  
101 South Greene Street, Wadesboro, NC 28170

Or you may visit our office and pay with cash, check, money order or credit / debit card. The Tax Collector office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please call 704-994-3218 for payment information.

Feel free to break tax payments into partial payments that better fit your personal budget, but please be sure to complete payment by January 4, 2019. We hope you can use this extra time for budgeting tax payments over the coming months.

Interest and fees on outstanding taxes will begin January 4, 2019.

A drop box on the Greene Street side of our building is available for after-hours delivery.

*Please settle taxes in a timely manner and avoid costly interest and advertising fees. Thank you, Joe Dutton, Anson County Tax Collector*

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