

# 5 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ON THE BALLOT

**MAY 16 ELECTIONS**

Louisiana voters will decide on five proposed constitutional amendments in the May 16 elections. These measures would undermine Civil Service protections for rank-and-file state employees, create a new school district, eliminate education-related trust funds to finance a modest teacher pay raise, provide new incentives to give corporations a tax break, and raise the mandatory retirement age for judges.

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## AMENDMENT 1: CIVIL SERVICE

*Synopsis:* Gives the state Legislature new power to decide who should get Civil Service protection.

- Civil Service protects against political patronage and ensures that public servants work for the people, not the politicians who appoint them.
- This amendment would likely increase the number of political appointees in state government;
- Political appointees serve “at will” and can be fired for any reason or none at all.

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## AMENDMENT 2: ST. GEORGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Synopsis:* Creates a new breakaway school district in the wealthy southeast suburbs of East Baton Rouge Parish.

- It would deepen economic and racial divisions in the state’s largest parish;
- Creates a budget deficit in EBR that would lead to budget cuts and tax increases;
- St. George families would have fewer choices and be largely shut out from high-performing magnet and gifted programs.

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## AMENDMENT 3: EDUCATION TRUST FUNDS

*Synopsis:* Eliminates three education-related trust funds to finance a modest pay raise for teachers and school support workers.

- Teachers would get a \$250 net pay raise and school support workers would get an extra \$125 per year.
- Eliminates three constitutionally protected trust funds, with nearly \$2 billion in assets, and uses the money to pre-pay debt in the teachers’ pension system;
- The trust fund earnings currently provide \$68 million in education funding;

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## AMENDMENT 4: CORPORATE TAX BREAK

*Synopsis:* Sets up an incentive structure for parishes to reduce or eliminate their property tax on business inventory.

- Parishes could get one-time payments of up to \$15 million if they permanently eliminate the tax;
- It’s unlikely to affect parishes with a lot of heavy industry;
- Could lead to local budget cuts or tax increases.

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## AMENDMENT 5: JUDGES RETIREMENT

*Synopsis:* Raises the mandatory retirement age for judges from 70 to 75.

- Judges who turn 75 would be able to finish their terms but not run again.



### BE AN INFORMED VOTER.

These amendments will shape Louisiana’s future.

*Learn the facts. Ask questions. Make your voice heard.*



**VOTE  
MAY 16**