

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.

5



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**