



SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION of LABOR

AFL-CIO

Organizing for Justice in Our Communities

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Don't get hoodwinked, Vote NO to the proposed amendments

Snake oil salesmen, mountebanks, and charlatans. They like to sell you a worthless idea that sounds good, but that's just so you get tricked into buying it. They're also masters of obfuscating the truth, so you're not sure what to believe or how to vote. On August 13, voters will have the opportunity to vote on two such proposed amendments to the Wisconsin Constitution. If voters get hoodwinked and approve the changes to the Wisconsin Constitution, such changes will go into effect immediately.

And what are these changes? Well, Question 1 goes like this: *"Delegation of appropriation power. Shall section 35 (1) of article IV of the Constitution be created to provide that the legislature may not delegate its sole power to determine how moneys shall be appropriated?"*

We all know a good rule of thumb is whenever we read something that will change our Constitution, we simply need to find out what the 'plain language' interpretation is. In this case, Question 1's Plain Language interpretation: *"Should we change the constitution to allow only the legislature, not the Governor, to decide how to use federal funds given to Wisconsin?"*

The second question states: *"Allocation of federal moneys. Shall section 35 (2) of article IV of the constitution be created to prohibit the governor from allocating any federal moneys the governor accepts on behalf of the state without the approval of the legislature by joint resolution or as provided by legislative rule?"*

The Plain Language interpretation: *"Should we change the constitution to take away the authority of the governor to decide how to use federal funds given to Wisconsin?"*

When a swindler and prevaricator tries to trick us, especially when it comes to changes in our Constitution, we should answer the question, "What is the impact if the voters are hoodwinked and the Constitution is amended?"

These changes to the constitution would immediately take away the governor's power to decide how to spend federal money and allow only the state legislature the right to decide how to spend federal

money. To some, that might sound good. But that is where the charlatan just sold you the snake oil. In an emergency, such as the Covid-19 pandemic or a natural disaster, the governor would be able to act more quickly than the legislature. If you vote yes, then that emergency funding gets delayed or doesn't show up at all. And then there is the infrastructure investment. Over \$1 billion is available to Wisconsin now for infrastructure (roads, transportation and broadband) and it must be allocated this year. The legislature adjourned in March 2024 and is not planning to meet again this year. Voting Yes and for the amendment threatens the funding, and therefore the construction, manufacturing, tech, and transportation present and future jobs in Wisconsin. Voting No and against the amendment will ensure the funding and those good-paying union jobs stay in Wisconsin. Voting Yes threatens the funding and those jobs.

So who disagrees with these changes to the Wisconsin Constitution? To start, the Wisconsin Education Association Council, Wisconsin Conservation Voters, and League of Women Voters of Wisconsin. And also Labor Unions and workers across the State of Wisconsin.

There doesn't seem to be any good reason to change the Constitution. Yet, some politicians will do anything to hold onto power. Don't let them hoodwink you. Vote No on the amendments.