



**CHUCK
EDWARDS**

for
NC Senate

Putting leadership and business experience to work for WNC

I will Vote YES for all six constitutional amendments. Here's why.

So many folks are asking me why are these six amendments needed to our state's constitution. Here is some background on why I supported legislation in favor of allowing the people of NC to decide for themselves on November 6th.

Right to Hunt and Fish

What the ballot will say; ***"Constitutional amendment protecting the right of the people to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife."*** Protects North Carolinians' right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife using traditional methods. If passed, NC will be the 23rd state to adopt such an amendment. We are experiencing intense urbanization from areas that are unfamiliar with our hunting and fishing traditions, with seeing trucks with guns in their rear window, or observing citizens walking along a roadside carrying a firearm, and they are offended by these types of traditions. This amendment ensures for future generations that these types of actions are normal and that they remain part of our heritage.

Victims' Bill of Rights

What the ballot will say; ***"Constitutional amendment to strengthen protections for victims of crime; to establish certain absolute basic rights for victims, and to ensure the enforcement of these rights."***

So many times victims of crimes do not receive notice of their hearings, nor are they included in pleas or sentencing. This amendment ensures that victims of crimes have rights, as do criminals.

Income Tax Cap

What the ballot will say: ***"Constitutional amendment to reduce the income tax rate in North Carolina to a maximum allowable rate of seven percent (7%)"***

Currently, our constitution caps the income tax rate at 10%. This amendment will help ensure that North Carolinians can keep more of their hard earned money by insisting that future legislators and governors meet our fundamental government needs and sustain fiscally responsible budgets.

Voter Photo ID

What the ballot will say: ***"Constitutional amendment to require voters to provide identification before voting in person."***

Like 38 other states, this is needed to protect our citizens' vote and the integrity of our state's election process.

Judicial Vacancy Appointments

What the ballot will say: ***"Constitutional amendment to change the process for filling judicial vacancies that occur between judicial elections from a process in which the Governor has sole appointment power to a process in which the people of the State nominate individuals to fill vacancies by way of a commission comprised of appointees made by the judicial, executive, and legislative branches charged with making recommendations to the legislature as to which nominees are deemed qualified; then the legislature will recommend at least two nominees to the Governor via legislative action not subject to gubernatorial veto; and the Governor will appoint judges from among these nominees."***

Currently, in NC, the de facto method to fill judicial vacancies is that only one person, the governor, will make decisions that ordinarily would be left up to the people. History tells us that about 40% of all judges in our state might be seated by only one individual over two gubernatorial terms, and that horrific practices have taken place by both political parties. This amendment will reduce the number of positions that are vacated early and will create a broader and more inclusive body to fill vacated judicial positions.

Bipartisan Board of Ethics and Elections

What the ballot will say: ***"Constitutional amendment to establish an eight-member Bipartisan Board of Ethics and Elections Enforcement in the Constitution to administer ethics and elections law."***

It is simply not right that this board currently is controlled by one person who could and has come under ethical scrutiny on which the board must rule. This amendment instead would create an eight-member bipartisan board much like Federal Elections Commission to administer ethics and election laws that would be free of the influence of any political party or branch of government. Nominations will come from the leaders in both the majority and minority parties of the legislature.