
**Proposed Constitutional Amendments
November 3, 2020 Ballot**

Voters statewide are being asked to make decisions on seven proposed constitutional amendments on the November ballot. Below is a summary, including GNO, Inc. positions on measures that may impact economic development.

Amendment 1: *“Do you support an amendment declaring that, to protect human life, a right to abortion and the funding of abortion shall not be found in the Louisiana Constitution?”*

What it Does: If passed, this amendment would state that nothing in the Constitution can be interpreted as protecting the right to an abortion. It would not have an immediate impact, but could come into play if abortion rights are overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Position: No Position

Amendment 2: *“Do you support an amendment to permit the presence or production of oil or gas to be included in the methodology used to determine the fair market value of an oil or gas well for the purpose of property assessment?”*

What it Does: Voting yes will enhance fairness, by using an income approach to value oil and gas wells. A well’s value would be based on production, with higher-producing wells valued higher than lower producing wells. This measure is supported by industry, as well as assessors.

Position: Support

Amendment 3: *“Do you support an amendment to allow for the use of the Budget Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund), for costs associated with a disaster declared by the federal government?”*

What it Does: This amendment would allow for the Rainy Day Fund to be tapped when there is a federally declared disaster.

Position: No Position

Amendment 4: *“Do you support an amendment to limit the growth of the expenditure limit for the state general fund and dedicated funds and to remove the calculation of its growth factor from the Constitution?”*

What it Does: This amendment would allow for a new formula, including three-year average growth in personal income, change in state GDP, inflation, and population change – instead of the current system which just employs changes in personal income.

Position: Support

Amendment 5: *“Do you support an amendment to allow local governments to enter into cooperative endeavor ad valorem tax exemption agreements with new or expanding manufacturing establishments for payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs)?”*

What it Does: This would provide for more local control, providing another mechanism for local taxing authorities and businesses to enter into PILOT agreements. This new process would allow for PILOTs, without the business having to transfer ownership. This amendment was supported by many business organizations, as well as the Louisiana School Boards Association, the Police Jury Association, and the Louisiana Sheriff’s Association.

Position: Support

Amendment 6: *“Do you support an amendment to increase the maximum amount of income a person may receive and still qualify for the special assessment level for residential property receiving the homestead exemption?”*

What it Does: If passed, the income threshold for homeowners eligible for property tax freezes would increase from a maximum of about \$77,000 to \$100,000. Only the owners of primary residences that qualify for the homestead exemption are eligible for the freeze, including those older than 65 and veterans who are disabled.

Position: No Position

Amendment 7: *“Do you support an amendment to create the Louisiana Unclaimed Property Permanent Trust Fund to preserve the money that remains unclaimed by its owner or owners?”*

What it Does: This amendment would create a new fund, ensuring the money is there when people seek to claim it. Instead of leftover money going to the state general fund, interest and investment income from the newly created Unclaimed Property Permanent Trust Fund would go to the state general fund.

Position: Support