Protect Our Constitution

PROTECT NORTH DAKOTA

VOTE *YES* ON MEASURE 1



North Dakota is a special place, and our Constitution is worth protecting.

Anyone can make their case to voters, but permanently changing our foundational document should require broad consensus. That's what Measure 1 does, and that's why StrongND Fund supports it.

- **North Dakota's Constitution is our foundational document**, and it deserves a higher level of protection than ordinary laws and political fights.
- **Permanent changes to our Constitution should have broad support from North Dakotans.** Fifty percent plus one simply isn't a high enough bar for something that is so difficult to undo.
- **Measure 1 doesn't take power away from voters.** North Dakotans still have the final say. It simply requires 60 percent of voters to agree before permanently changing our Constitution.
- **North Dakota shouldn't allow our Constitution to become a grab bag of spending mandates and special-interest carve-outs.** Those policy debates belong in the normal legislative process, where they can be debated, adjusted and revisited as circumstances change.
- **We've seen well-funded special interests spend millions of dollars trying to change state constitutions.** Measure 1 ensures that money alone isn't enough. If you want to permanently change North Dakota's Constitution, you should have to build broad support among North Dakotans.
- **This isn't about closing the door to constitutional amendments. Good ideas with broad public support will still pass.** It's about setting an appropriately high bar for permanent changes to the document that governs our state.

This is a special place. It's our job to protect it.

PAID FOR BY STRONGND FUND

FAQs

ABOUT MEASURE 1

Why 60 percent? Why not let a majority decide?

Because we're talking about the Constitution, not an ordinary law or election. The Constitution is our foundational document and is extraordinarily difficult to change once something is written into it. Requiring 60 percent ensures that permanent constitutional changes have broad support among North Dakotans rather than squeaking through with a bare majority.

Doesn't Measure 1 take power away from voters?

No. North Dakota voters retain the final say. Measure 1 doesn't prevent constitutional amendments or take voters out of the process. It simply sets a higher bar for permanently changing our foundational document.

Why shouldn't 50 percent plus one be enough?

Because the Constitution is supposed to reflect broad and lasting agreement, not the political mood of a single election. Ordinary policy can be changed through the legislative process. Once something is written into the Constitution, it is much harder to fix or undo. Permanent changes should require broader consensus.

Are you trying to make it impossible to amend the Constitution?

Not at all. Measure 1 sets a high bar, not an impossible one. If an idea has broad support from North Dakotans, voters can still put it into the Constitution. We simply believe permanent constitutional changes should have more than bare-majority support.

Are you trying to take away North Dakotans' initiative power?

No. Measure 1 does not change the initiated-measure process for changing the North Dakota Century Code. North Dakotans will still be able to initiate and pass laws. It changes only the threshold for constitutional amendments.

Put simply, if you want to change the law, change the law. If you want to change the Constitution, build broader support.

CAUTIONARY TALES

Why are you talking about California?

California is a cautionary example of what can happen when a state constitution becomes a vehicle for spending mandates and special-interest carve-outs. We don't want North Dakota's Constitution to become a grab bag of ordinary policy decisions that are extremely difficult to change later.

What does the Fairness Project have to do with this?

The Fairness Project is a liberal Washington, D.C.-based organization that specializes in ballot-measure campaigns and has described itself as a leading funder and strategic partner for progressive ballot measures across the country. Its own materials describe ballot initiatives as a way to make policy changes directly at the ballot box rather than through elected representatives.

Their involvement raises a legitimate question: Should North Dakota's Constitution be something that national organizations can target with millions of dollars, or should permanent changes require broad agreement among North Dakotans?

Why should constitutional amendments require more than a simple majority?

Look at the U.S. Constitution. Article V requires a much higher level of agreement: generally, two-thirds of Congress must propose an amendment and three-fourths of the states must ratify it.

So ask yourself: If 50 percent plus one is enough to permanently change North Dakota's constitution, should we be able to change the United States Constitution with 50 percent plus one?

The Constitution is meant to be enduring. That's why changing it requires broader consensus.

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