

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT C

**Title:** A Constitutional Amendment Requiring Three-Fifths Vote for Approval of Ballot Measures Imposing Taxes or Fees or Obligating over \$10 Million.

**Attorney General Explanation:** Currently the constitution requires that any new tax or tax increase must be approved either by voters or by two-thirds of the members of each legislative branch. To be approved by voters, such a measure must obtain a majority of the votes cast. This constitutional amendment requires that any initiated measure, proposed constitutional amendment, or referred measure imposing or increasing taxes must obtain three-fifths of the votes cast to be approved.

This constitutional amendment also adds the requirement that any initiated measure, proposed constitutional amendment, or referred measure obligating the state to appropriate \$10 million or more in any of the first five fiscal years must obtain three-fifths of the votes cast to be approved.

This constitutional amendment additionally requires any initiated measure, proposed constitutional amendment, or referred measure which imposes or increases fees to obtain three-fifths of the votes cast to be approved.

Vote "Yes" to adopt the amendment. Vote "No" to leave the Constitution as it is.

### Pro – Constitutional Amendment C

A yes vote on Amendment C makes it harder to raise your taxes and create more big government spending programs. It should be harder to tax and spend your money, and a yes vote on Amendment C provides greater protection for your hard-earned money.

Passing Amendment C would provide protection for taxpayers by requiring that 60% of voters agree before raising your taxes and growing government.

Without the protection of Amendment C, special interest groups can use ballot measures to raise your sales or property taxes, enact a state income tax, or create a state death tax with only a simple majority of those who show up at the polls to vote.

Amendment C is consistent with existing taxpayer protections in South Dakota law. Our South Dakota Constitution requires the consensus of 67% of our state legislature to enact new taxes or create new government spending programs. These protections have helped South Dakotans avoid the higher taxes and runaway spending that plague Washington D.C. and other states without such protections.

Inflation and the rising costs of food, gas, and other necessities make it more difficult for people and families to just get by financially. A yes vote on Amendment C protects your personal and family budget from the strain of higher taxes and spending.

Ballot measures that take more of your hard-earned money through higher taxes and big government spending should require a 60% vote to become law. Vote yes on Amendment C.

Jon Hansen, State Representative  
Speaker Pro Tempore of the South Dakota House

### Con – Constitutional Amendment C

Amendment C will lead to unintended consequences for our state. It's confusing, unnecessary, risky, and it will permanently change our constitution in ways we can't even imagine yet. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Here's the fine print: Amendment C would permanently change our constitution to end majority rule for ballot measures, allowing a small minority to block important decisions that most voters want. It shreds the sacred "majority rules" tradition this country and our state was founded on.

Amendment C is also unconstitutional, and a lawsuit has already been filed against it.

The truth is that out-of-state lobbyists and special interests will be the real winners if C passes. Amendment C gives power to special interests while undermining the will of South Dakota voters – perhaps that's why an out-of-state special interest group is bankrolling the campaign to pass it.

Lastly, consider this: if C passes, it would take just 41% of voters to block funding for important programs including law enforcement, rural health centers, nursing homes, schools – the list goes on. We can't allow our state to be held hostage by just a few people.

Amendment C faces widespread opposition from business owners, workers, mayors of our cities, and rural residents alike who all oppose C because they know it's wrong for South Dakota's future.

Vote "NO" on Amendment C. Learn more: [SDFairElections.org](http://SDFairElections.org)

Yvonne Taylor, Municipal League

Ashley Kingdon-Reese, Business Owner