

Ballot Measure No. 1

Constitutional Convention Question

STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION

Every 10 years, Alaskans are asked whether we should hold a constitutional convention. Each time, Alaskans have strongly rejected that question. This year Alaskans should join a growing coalition from across the political spectrum in once again voting “No” on a constitutional convention.

A constitutional convention is unnecessary, expensive, and dangerous. Not only would it open up our entire founding document to wholesale rewrite, it would create years of economic and regulatory uncertainty in our state. Opening up Alaska’s entire Constitution could lead to unpredictable changes and open a Pandora’s box of hot-button issues like access to natural resource, taxes, abortion, guns rights, gender and sexual orientation, the Permanent Fund, land and wildlife management and so much more.

Because no state in the nation has held a state constitutional convention in over 36 years, special interests from outside of Alaska would seize this opportunity to make Alaska the testing ground for their political and partisan agendas. Exposing our founding document to years of political infighting, particularly in the face of growing divide in our nation, is the last thing hardworking Alaska families, businesses and communities need.

Alaska’s Constitution has served our state well for over 60 years. Our state’s founders included a separate, well-devised, and transparent amendment process to make targeted changes to our Constitution; a process that has worked well for Alaskans on 40 separate occasions.

However, a convention would open up the entire Constitution for unlimited revision. Even more concerning: convention delegates would be selected via a special election with zero restrictions on campaign contributions. And because sitting legislators in Juneau would be eligible to run, there is little assurance that a convention would result in meaningful changes. A constitutional convention would ultimately lead to a multi-year, costly and contentious process that would distract from the real work of addressing our state’s shared challenges.

Hundreds of individuals representing Alaska’s geographic and political diversity have formed to formally oppose a convention. This coalition represents a broad group of Alaskans who often disagree on issues facing our state: business and labor leaders, resource development champions and conservationists, Republicans and Democrats. But we all agree: a constitutional convention would be unnecessary, expensive, and dangerous for Alaska.

Holding a constitutional convention carries great risk, with little or no potential reward. Alaskans should work to protect our founding document and oppose the constitutional convention this November by voting no on Ballot Measure 1.

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