



**BEFORE You Vote...**

**KNOW the Facts**

## **An Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution to Remove Lawmaker’s Power to Set Their Own Pay**

On November 8, 2016, Minnesota voters will be asked whether to amend the Constitution to remove from the Legislature the power to set their own salary. This proposed Constitution Amendment will create a Legislative Pay Council as described on the reverse side. This citizen council will be responsible for determining the salary of state legislators. This proposed amendment was authorized with bipartisan support in the 2013 Legislature. Failure to vote on the amendment has the same effect as voting no on the amendment.

Official Ballot	<b>State General Election Ballot</b>
Judge _____	<b>County Name, Minnesota</b>
Judge _____	<b>November 8, 2016</b>
<b>Instructions to Voters:</b> To vote, completely fill in the oval next to your choice like this: <input checked="" type="radio"/>	
<b>Constitutional Amendments</b>	
Failure to vote on a constitutional amendment will have the same effect as voting no on the amendment.	
To vote for a proposed constitutional amendment, fill in the oval next to the word "Yes" on that question. To vote against a proposed constitutional amendment, fill in the oval next to the word "No" on that question.	
<b>Remove Lawmakers' Power to Set Their Own Pay</b>	
Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to remove state lawmakers' power to set their own salaries, and instead establish an independent, citizens-only council to prescribe salaries of lawmakers?	
<input type="radio"/>	<b>Yes</b>
<input type="radio"/>	<b>No</b>



To learn more about the League of Women Voters Minnesota or to make a tax deductible donation, please visit our website at [www.lwvminn.org](http://www.lwvminn.org) or visit our Facebook page. The League of Women Voters Minnesota, a nonpartisan 501(c)3 political organization encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We do not endorse candidates for public office or political parties.



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### ***The Facts About the Amendment:\****

- ⇒ Today Legislators, not the taxpayers who employ them, are responsible for setting their own pay.
- ⇒ The current Minnesota Constitution creates a conflict of interest by requiring legislators to set their own pay.
- ⇒ To change who determines legislators' pay requires an amendment to the Constitution. This amendment passed the House and Senate with bi-partisan support.
- ⇒ Changing the Constitution requires a majority vote of all ballots cast.
- ⇒ A majority vote of total ballots cast is different than a simple majority.
- ⇒ This means that leaving the ballot blank counts the same as voting no.

### ***Who Would Be on the Legislative Pay Commission:***

- ⇒ One person who is not a judge from each Congressional District appointed by Chief Justice of Minnesota Supreme Court.
- ⇒ One person from each Congressional District appointed by the Governor.
- ⇒ If there are an odd number of Congressional Districts, the Governor and the Chief Justice must each appoint one at-large member in addition.
- ⇒ One half of the members appointed by the Governor must belong to the political party that has the most members in the Legislature.
- ⇒ One half of the members appointed by the Governor must belong to the political party that has the second most members in the Legislature.

### ***Who Can Not Be on the Legislative Pay Commission:***

- ⇒ **No** current or former legislators or their spouses
- ⇒ **No** current or former registered lobbyists
- ⇒ **No** current employees of the legislature
- ⇒ **No** current or former judges
- ⇒ **No** current or former governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state or state auditor
- ⇒ **No** current employee of an entity in the executive or judicial branch

### ***What Are the Legislative Pay Council's Duties?***

- ⇒ The Council must prescribe salaries by March 31 of every odd-numbered year, taking into account any other legislative compensation provided to legislators by the State of Minnesota, with any changes to take effect July 1 of that year.
- ⇒ Membership terms, removal and compensation of members shall be as prescribed by law.

\*All information quoted from Ch. 124 – H.F. No. 1823 at

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/?id=124&doctype=Chapter&year=2013&type=0>