



WILSON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Three Constitutional Amendments on November's Ballot

When voters go to the polls in November, there will be three constitutional amendment questions on the ballot, two of them dealing with crime and punishment and the other with banning a state property tax.

In addition to the three constitutional questions, the November 3rd election will include the race for Tennessee governor, U.S. Senate, 6th district U.S. House of Representatives, 17th District State Senate, the 40th, 46th and 57th State house contests and the Lebanon, Myt Juliet and Watertown Municipal Elections.

"Every voter is familiar with voting for individual candidates listed on a ballot. Voting for these amendments is a little different", said Tammy Smith Administrator of Elections. "The first contest on the ballot is Tennessee Governor. Immediately following the governor's contest are the three constitutional amendments." continued Smith.

For a Constitutional amendment, voters will choose Yes or No. Yes means a voter supports the amendment and wants to adopt the changes to the state Constitution. No means a voter wants to keep the Constitution as is and does not support changing the language.

The Tennessee Secretary of States office explains the process: For an amendment to pass and become part of the Constitution, both of the following must happen:

1. The amendment must receive more "yes" votes than "no" votes; and
2. The number of "yes" votes must be more than half of all votes cast in the governor's race.

To find out how many votes are needed to pass a proposed amendment, all votes cast for all candidates for governor are added together and divided by two. An amendment passes if it gets more "yes" votes than "no" votes and if the number of "yes" votes is more than half of all votes cast for governor. If either of these requirements is not met, the amendment does not pass and the Constitution remains unchanged.

Links to the full texts of the amendments on the ballot and a link to the Tennessee Constitution can easily be found on Tennessee's Secretary of States website-sos.tn.gov.

The Wilson County Election Commission will post the wording of the three amendments as part of the Sample Ballot on their website, in local newspapers and at every early Voting and Election Day vote center. They urge voters to become familiar with the questions and the ballot before coming to vote.

“Administering elections lawfully and with integrity is the mission of the Wilson County Election Commission. Providing access to the sample ballot well in advance of early voting and election day gives voters the chance to do research regarding questions and candidates on the ballot.” Said Smith

Early Voting for the November election begins on October 14th and ends on October 29th. There are four convenient Early Voting sites - Wilson County the Election Commission Office at 230 East Gay Street in Lebanon; Mt. Juliet Community Center at 1075 Charlie Daniels Pkwy; Gladeville Community Center at 95 McCreary Road; and Watertown Community Center at 8630 Sparta Pike. All locations are open from Monday through Friday 8:00am until 6:00pm and Saturday 8:00am until 1:00pm.

Voters who miss Early Voting and want to cast their ballot on Election Day can choose from one of the 18 Election Day Vote Centers and vote at site most convenient to them that day.

To learn more about elections, voting and how you can be involved with Wilson County elections contact the Wilson County Election Commission at 615-444-0216 or online at www.WilsonTNVotes.gov.