



STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Josh Kaul
Attorney General

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August 26, 2024

SENT VIA EMAIL (angela.sharpe@wisconsin.gov; elections@wi.gov)

Angela O'Brien Sharpe, Staff Attorney
Wisconsin Elections Commission
212 East Washington Avenue, 3rd floor
Post Office Box 7984
Madison, WI 53707-7984

Re: Explanatory statement for proposed constitutional amendment

Dear Attorney Sharpe:

Your office asked me to prepare the explanatory statement required by Wis. Stat. § 10.01(2)(c) regarding a referendum question that the legislature asks to be submitted to the people at the election on November 5, 2024. In response to your request, the question and corresponding explanatory statement are set forth below.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

“Eligibility to vote. Shall section 1 of article III of the constitution, which deals with suffrage, be amended to provide that only a United States citizen age 18 or older who resides in an election district may vote in an election for national, state, or local office or at a statewide or local referendum?”

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT AS TO THE QUESTION

The Wisconsin Constitution provides that “[e]very United States citizen age 18 or older who is a resident of an election district in this state is a qualified elector of that district.” Wis. Const. art. III, § 1. That language is repeated in Wisconsin statute. Wis. Stat. § 6.02(1).

The referendum question would modify the language in Wis. Const. art. III, § 1 to provide that “only” a U.S. citizen 18 or older who resides in an election district may vote, and it would specify that only such individuals may vote in an election for “a national, state, or local office or at a statewide or local referendum.” It also would

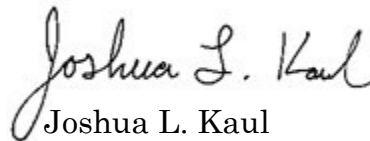
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add definitions of what "local office," "national office," "referendum," and "state office" mean. 2023 Wis. S.J. Res. 71.

A "yes" vote would vote to modify existing article III, section 1 of the Wisconsin Constitution to provide that "only" a U.S. citizen 18 or older who resides in an election district can vote "in a national, state, or local office or at a statewide or local referendum."

A "no" vote would vote not to change Wis. Const. art. III, § 1 of the Wisconsin Constitution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joshua L. Kaul". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Joshua L. Kaul
Attorney General

JLK:NZ