

Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote . . . that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for



*which he is accountable to God and his country.”
- Samuel Adams*

Each one of us is

accountable to do our best as we carry out this most solemn trust. To do so we must be diligent in educating ourselves. Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC) aims to assist you in doing just that concerning the six initiatives on the November 8, 2016, Maine ballot.

[Because the issues of gun control, minimum wage and bonds are not within CWALAC's core issues, CWALAC will not be expressing concerns or making a recommendation on how to vote on Question 3, 4 and 6. These are important issues so we encourage you to read the information we have provided on these questions and then continue your search for information on these subjects.]

Question #1

An Act To Legalize Marijuana.

“Do you want to allow the possession and use of marijuana under State law by persons who are at least 21 years of age, and allow the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, testing, and sale of marijuana and marijuana products subject to State regulation, taxation, and local ordinance?”

Summary: This initiated bill allows the possession and use of marijuana by a person 21 years of age or older. It provides for the licensure of retail marijuana facilities including retail marijuana cultivation facilities, retail marijuana products manufacturing facilities, retail marijuana testing facilities and retail marijuana stores. It also provides for the licensure of retail marijuana social clubs where retail marijuana products may be sold to consumers for consumption on the licensed premises. It provides for regulation and control of the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of marijuana by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. It allows the department to establish limitations on retail marijuana cultivation. It allows a municipality to regulate the number of retail marijuana stores and the location and operation of retail marijuana establishments and to prohibit the operation of retail marijuana establishments in the municipality. It also allows a municipality to require separate local licensing of retail marijuana establishments.

The initiated bill allows a person 21 years of age or older to use, possess or transport marijuana accessories and up to 2 1/2 ounces of prepared marijuana; transfer or furnish, without remuneration, up to 2 1/2 ounces of marijuana and up to 6 immature plants or seedlings to a person who is 21 years of age or older; possess, grow, cultivate, process or transport up to 6 flowering marijuana plants, 12 immature marijuana plants and unlimited seedlings, and possess all the marijuana produced by the marijuana plants at that person's residence; purchase up to 2 1/2 ounces of marijuana and marijuana accessories from a retail marijuana store; and purchase up to 12 marijuana seedlings or immature marijuana plants from a retail marijuana cultivator. It allows the home

cultivation of marijuana for personal use of up to six flowering marijuana plants by a person 21 years of age or older.

The initiated bill allows a person to consume marijuana in a nonpublic place including a private residence. It provides that the prohibitions and limitations on smoking tobacco products in specified areas as provided by law apply to smoking marijuana and that a person who smokes marijuana in a public place other than as governed by law commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$100 may be adjudged.

The initiated bill places a sales tax of 10% on retail marijuana and retail marijuana products.

Concerns: Colorado has been flooded with college and young adult populations skyrocketing welfare costs. So-called edibles are being blamed for an increase in the number of pot-related emergency room visits, including those from a half-dozen or so children who unknowingly ate pot-laced treats. The baked goods and candies also are believed to have played a role in two deaths providing opponents with front-page anecdotes that run counter to the “cannabis-kills-no-one” narrative long trumpeted by legalization advocates. A college student visiting from Wyoming jumped to his death from a Denver hotel balcony after consuming six times the recommended dose of a pot-infused cookie.

Colorado authorities are also dealing with a rash of fiery house explosions caused by pot enthusiasts making THC-rich hash oil in their homes through a dangerous process that involves heavy amounts of butane, a highly flammable gas that can linger and ignite. All told, firefighters have responded to more than 30

such explosions already, roughly three times the number from all of the previous year, according to the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area agency.

Regulators must find a solution to federal banking requirements that has pot shops operating like cash-only lemonade stands, and a way to make sure that small home-growing operations—legal under the law—don't flourish to the point where they fuel their own unregulated market.

Officials simply don't yet have the data to tell what is a problem and what isn't. Gov. John Hickenlooper, a Democrat who opposed the 2012 legalization initiative, has warned his fellow governors to wait and see before following Colorado's example. “There are no long-term studies ... but what I've told people is: You ought to wait a year or two,” he said recently. “Let's see whether we can keep it out of the hands of kids. Let's see that people aren't driving while high. [Let's] make sure there aren't unintended consequences.” Go to notonmymainestreet.com/whos-with-us.html for more information.

Recommendation: Vote NO on Question #1.

Question #2

An Act To Establish The Fund to Advance Public Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education.
“Do you want to add a 3% tax on individual Maine taxable income above \$200,000 to create a state fund that would provide direct support for student learning in kindergarten through 12th grade public education?”

Summary: This initiated bill establishes the Fund to Advance Public Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education for the purpose of improving the ability of the State to reach the annual target of

55%, as specified in statute, for the state share of the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12, and for increasing direct support for student learning rather than administrative costs. Revenue for the fund is generated by a 3% surcharge on Maine taxable income over \$200,000, beginning with tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2017.

Concerns: The Grade 12 Education Funding bill is egregious. First of all, the funds are earmarked for some schools, not all, and Cape Elizabeth, one of the wealthiest, is to receive funds. Secondly, it punishes larger wage earners and is a small business killer because business bills are paid out of the checking account and what's left over is salary. That is unfair because CWA of Maine believes all have equal opportunity to achieve their goals and dreams, and we must not take more from those who work hard.

Recommendation: Vote NO on Question #2.

Question #3

An Act to Require Background Checks for Gun Sales.

“Do you want to require background checks prior to the sale or transfer of firearms between individuals not licensed as firearms dealers, with failure to do so punishable by law, and with some exceptions for family members, hunting, self-defense, lawful competitions, and shooting range activity?”

Question #4

An Act to Raise the Minimum Wage.

“Do you want to raise the minimum hourly wage of \$7.50 to \$9 in 2017, with annual \$1 increases up to \$12 in 2020, and annual cost-of-living increases thereafter; and do you want to raise the direct wage for service workers who

receive tips from half the minimum wage to \$5 in 2017, with annual \$1 increases until it reaches the adjusted minimum wage?”

Question #5

An Act To Establish Ranked-Choice Voting.

“Do you want to allow voters to rank their choices of candidates in elections for U.S. Senate, Congress, Governor, State Senate, and State Representative, and to have ballots counted at the State level in multiple rounds in which last-place candidates are eliminated until a candidate wins by majority?”

Summary: This initiated bill provides ranked-choice voting for the offices of United States Senator, United States Representative to Congress, Governor, State Senator and State Representative for elections held on or after January 1, 2018. Ranked-choice voting is a method of casting and tabulating votes in which voters rank candidates in order of preference, tabulation proceeds in rounds in which last-place candidates are defeated, and the candidate with the most votes in the final round is elected.

Concerns: State Rep. Heather Sirocki (R-District 28) shared this regarding Ranked-Choice Voting: Ranked-Choice Voting would:

- ▶ violate the Maine Constitution in two ways – Plurality Requirement (person with the most votes wins) and Instant Runoff Tabulation Requirements
- ▶ lead to costly court challenges
- ▶ make Maine the ONLY state in the nation to implement RCV (Five states use RCV for overseas and out-of-state military, but it is NOT used for every voter in every statewide and federal race.)
- ▶ be costly to implement- an estimated \$1.5 million for new equipment
- ▶ also include the federal candidates running

for the U.S. Senate (two seats) and U.S. House of Representatives (two seats), as well as Maine Governor, Maine State Senate (35 seats), and Maine Representatives to the House (151 seats)

- ▶ involve instant recounts if there are more than two candidates that do not result in a majority vote (50% plus one vote)
- ▶ be time consuming
- ▶ further disenfranchise voters by using the recounted ballots of the loser to determine the winner

Recommendation: Vote NO on Question #5.

Question #6

Infrastructure Construction Bond Issue

Do you favor a \$100,000,000 bond issue for construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of highways and bridges and for facilities, equipment and property acquisition related to ports, harbors, marine transportation, freight and passenger railroads, aviation, transit and bicycle and pedestrian trails, to be used to match an estimated \$137,000,000 in federal and other funds?

Side note: Maine has a process for ballot initiatives whether citizen or legislature initiated. To find out more about how the process works, go to: maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/citizens/inipak.html.



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Be an *Informed* Maine Voter



The six initiative questions on the Maine November 8 ballot concerning:

Marijuana
Education
Gun Control
Minimum Wage
Ranked-Choice Voting
Bond Issue

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