

VOTE **NO** ON **W**

Amendment
W is Wrong

What is Amendment W?

Amendment W would amend South Dakota's constitution to revise campaign finance and lobbying laws, create an ethics commission and establish new laws governing the initiative and referendum process.

Amendment W is funded by a Massachusetts think tank, the same group that funded Initiated Measure 22 in 2016, which was repealed by our state legislature. Amendment W is much worse than IM 22 and, if passed, can't be repealed or amended without voter approval.

Why is Amendment W wrong for our state?

- W would limit lobbying, preventing SDAH0 from advocating for health care issues that are important to SDAH0 member AND South Dakota.
- W would eliminate financial (PAC) contributions to candidates.
- W would create an independent seven-member "ethics commission" with broad and comprehensive power. Facts about the ethics commission:
 - » Could investigate ANY elected or appointed official, judge, or state or local employee - even school board members!
 - » Complaints to the ethics commission could be filed anonymously.
 - » Could impose fines, investigate, adopt rules and issue advisory opinions.
 - » Would not be held accountable to any branch of government, the judiciary or the governor.
- W would mandate that the ethics commission be funded \$389K annually, indexed to inflation.
- W would override all other parts of the constitution, including the bill of rights.
- No other state has an ethics commission mandated in the constitution.
- South Dakota has a State Government Accountability Board, which was created in 2017 by the state legislature. The current ethics board would cease to exist if W passes.
- If passed, this article will prevail over all other articles in the state constitution.
- Would change election laws so laws enacted by the state legislature are submitted to a simple majority vote of the people.
- Proposed measures would only need a simple majority to pass.

Learn More

- [Attorney General's Statement](#)
- [LRC's Comments \(including text of Amendment W\)](#)
- [Sioux Falls Chamber's Issue Brief](#)
- [South Dakota Chamber's White Paper](#)
- [BallotPedia](#)

Amendment W
is
WRONG
for South Dakota!
VOTE NO!