



STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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March 1, 2018

SENT VIA EMAIL (Nathan.Judnic@wisconsin.gov)

Nathan W. Judnic, Legal Counsel
Wisconsin Elections Commission
212 E. Washington Ave., 3rd floor
Post Office Box 7984
Madison, WI 53707-7984

Re: Explanatory statement of proposed constitutional amendment
on April 3, 2018 ballot

Dear Attorney Judnic:

Your office asked me to prepare the explanatory statement required by Wis. Stat. § 10.01(2)(c) regarding a referendum question that will be submitted to the people at the general election on April 3, 2018. The referendum question pertains to a proposed amendment to the state constitution. In response to your request, the referendum question and explanatory statement are set forth below.

QUESTION

“Elimination of state treasurer. Shall sections 1 and 3 of article VI and sections 7 and 8 of article X of the constitution be amended, and section 17 of article XIV of the constitution be created, to eliminate the office of state treasurer from the constitution and to replace the state treasurer with the lieutenant governor as a member of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands?”

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Article VI of the Wisconsin Constitution provides for the election of a state treasurer every four years. Wis. Const. Art. VI, § 1. The Constitution spells out only one duty for the Treasurer: to serve as one of three members on the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, which is charged with the sale of school and

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university lands and with the investment of funds arising from such sales. Wis. Const. Art. X, § 7. The other two members of that Board are the Attorney General and Secretary of State.

The referendum question proposes to eliminate the constitutional office of Treasurer. To fill the Treasurer's position on the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, the Lieutenant Governor would serve as the third member of that Board.

A "yes" vote on this question would eliminate the constitutional office of the Treasurer. It would replace the Treasurer with the Lieutenant Governor as a member of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands.

A "no" vote would retain the constitutional office of the Treasurer under Article VI. The Treasurer would also continue to serve as a member of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands.

If you require further assistance regarding this matter, please contact David Meany, Legal Services Administrator, directly at (608) 266-0332 or meanydv@doj.state.wi.us . Thank you!

Very truly yours,



Brad D. Schimel
Wisconsin Attorney General

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