

Legislative-Veto Amendment—Vote “NO”

Passing the “Legislative Veto” amendment would take veto power away from the governor and give that power to the Republican-led state legislature to strike down rules and regulations that protect our health, safety, and the environment. If passed, the amendment would give the legislature sole and exclusive authority to revoke or suspend regulations established by state executive agencies, like the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Currently, if legislators don’t like an agency regulation—say a regulation prohibiting dumping toxic chemicals into our water streams—they must pass a law, which would require a 2/3 vote, or a veto-proof majority. A vote for this proposed amendment would change that number to a mere simple majority—51% of our state legislators could strike down state agency regulations, and the governor would have no say. Vote “no” to maintain the status quo, which requires a 2/3, veto-proof vote in the legislature to revoke agency regulations.

Sheriff Amendment—Vote “NO”

Passing the “Sheriff Amendment” would require that, going forward, counties in Kansas be required to elect a sheriff as their head of county law enforcement—even if a county government decides to consolidate with city government. Also, and significantly, this amendment would take away power from our local district attorneys to initiate any investigation into misconduct by a sheriff (a “quo warranto” proceeding) and give that power solely and exclusively to the attorney general. Currently, if a local district attorney believes a sheriff has behaved badly—say hiding or tampering with evidence in a criminal case—that local district attorney or the attorney general can initiate an investigation. If this amendment passes, local district attorneys would be stripped of that power. Vote “no” to maintain the status quo—that the attorney general or a local district attorney can initiate an investigation into a sheriff’s misconduct.



Paid for by the Douglas County Democratic Party, Patricia Willer, Chair