



WISCONSIN INSTITUTE
FOR LAW & LIBERTY

Mythbusting: August Constitutional Amendments

Don't believe the partisans and the special interests

MYTH #1: This is an extreme power grab by the Republicans in the Legislature.¹

- WRONG. The amendments require lawmakers and the governor to work together. **That's not extreme or a power grab. It's what we expect of our elected officials.**
- This effort is not about empowering a political party, it's about empowering 132 democratically elected lawmakers, Republicans and Democrats, to have a voice in the spending process.

MYTH 2: This would give legislators "sole power" over spending.²

- WRONG. That's just a blatant lie by those that want one person to maintain sole power. **The amendments require everyone to work together.** No matter how many millions the special interests want to spend, it doesn't make this lie any less false.

MYTH #3: The Governor has greater accountability than the legislature.³

- WRONG.. By virtue of its composition, 99 members of the Assembly and 33 members of the Senate, **the legislature is infinitely closer and more accountable to their constituents** than the Governor ever could be.

MYTH #4: If approved, these constitutional amendments would eliminate our system of checks and balances.⁴

- WRONG. The exact opposite is true. Under current law, the Governor was able to spend federal COVID funding in any matter he deemed necessary as long as it complied with federal rules. Legislators had no say in those funding decisions, which left them without a check on the executive branch. **This amendment would simply return the power of the purse back to the legislature and require both branches of government to work together.**

MYTH #5: If approved, state government would be slow or unable to respond with funding to an emergency.⁵

- WRONG. If an event with the magnitude of the pandemic were to happen again and create a dire need for funding, **the legislature could easily convene to appropriate federal funding through an extraordinary session.** Most other states operate with this system of checks and

¹ [Protect Wisconsin's Constitution - TV Ad](#)

² [Protect Wisconsin's Constitution - TV Ad](#)

³ [League of Women Voters of Wisconsin](#)

⁴ [Protect Wisconsin's Constitution - TV Ad](#)

⁵ [Wisconsin Votes No](#)

balances in place and can handle emergency situations without empowering the governor to act as a monarch.

MYTH #6: If approved, would create “more gridlock” in the legislature.⁶

- WRONG. What is commonly referred to as gridlock in the state legislature is actually the process of deliberation by the people’s elected representatives. That fulfills the American founding principle of government for and by the people. **By cutting legislators out, lobbyists and special interests are empowered.** Bringing the Assembly and Senate into the process makes it more difficult for insiders and gives taxpayers strong representation.

MYTH #7: For our state to be adequately funded, we need to allow federal funds to be dispersed quickly by the Governor.

- WRONG. Barring any “emergency” as described above, the legislature begins each session in January of every odd year. Their most important task is to pass and have the Governor sign a two-year biennial budget. Every budget takes into consideration federal dollars that flow into the state and appropriates them. This is a routine process that ensures that Wisconsin’s government is adequately funded in concert with the will of the people.

MYTH #8: This is a “knee-jerk” reaction from the legislature that only adds red tape.⁷

- WRONG. This effort started in January of 2022, more than 31 months before a vote will be cast on the amendment. The process for placing a constitutional amendment on a statewide ballot is actually a long process. In two consecutive sessions, an identical joint resolution needs to be passed by both houses of the legislature before it can be placed on the ballot.

Vote YES on Questions 1 & 2 on August 13th.

⁶ Protect Wisconsin’s Constitution - TV Ad

⁷ League of Women Voters of Wisconsin