



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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Proposed Amendments to State Constitution

At the general election, November 2, 1948, each voter will be handed a pink ballot so that he may vote "Yes" or "No" to four proposed Constitutional Amendments. The voter must vote on each proposal separately.

Proposals 2 and 3 Are of the Utmost Importance if We Favor Any Change in Our State Constitution

Proposed Amendment No. 2

The purpose of the amendment proposed by said Laws 1947, Chapter 640, is to eliminate from Article XIV, Section 1, of the State Constitution as it now reads the following words, to-wit:

"If two or more alterations or amendments shall be submitted at the same time, it shall be so regulated that the voters shall vote for or against each separately."

Article XIV, Section 1, of the State Constitution, as now worded, required that if two or more proposed amendments are submitted at the same election they shall be so submitted that the voters may vote for or against each separately. The purpose of the proposed amendment is to eliminate that requirement. (The effect of its adoption would be to make it possible for the legislature to submit two or more proposed alterations or amendments to the State Constitution at the same time in such form that a voter thereon shall be required to vote for or against all of them as a group and not on each separately.)

Proposed Amendment No. 3

If the amendment is adopted, said Article XIV, Section 2, would read as follows:

"Two thirds of the members elected to each branch of the legislature may provide by law for call-

ing a convention to revise this Constitution. The convention shall consist of as many members as the House of Representatives, who shall be chosen in the same manner and shall meet within three months after their election for the purpose aforesaid."

Under the present provisions of the Constitution, the calling of a convention to revise it requires that the legislature, by a vote of two thirds of the members of each House, shall submit to the voters of the state at the next general election the question as to whether such convention shall be called by the legislature at its next session.

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to eliminate the requirement of a vote on the question by the voters of the state and to authorize, without such vote, two thirds of the members of each House to provide by law for calling such a convention.

The effect of the proposed amendment to Article XIV, Section 2, of the State Constitution, is to transfer the power to call a convention to revise the State Constitution from the electors expressing their will by a majority of all the electors voting at said election to two thirds of the members elected to each branch of the legislature.

Attorney with casualty adjusting experience desires connection with law office either in or out of the city. Write to

MINNESOTA STATE BAR
ASSOCIATION

709 N. Y. Life Bldg., Minneapolis

and your letter will be turned over to the interested party.

OCT 11 1948

10/8. 48

Thank you. Your assistance
was - a great help. I also
received - data from
the AYC with your help

H Z Giffen
1447 Danton Court
Rochester

Please Return
↓

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
84 South Tenth Street, Room 417
Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

MINNESOTA POLL

Bonus Backing Gains, But Many Hostile if Sales Tax Involved

RISING SUPPORT for a constitutional amendment that would authorize the Minnesota legislature to pay a bonus to World War II veterans is indicated in the latest of a series of Minnesota Poll surveys on the issue.

Seventy-eight per cent of the state's voting-age residents say they would vote for the amendment if an election were being held today. The question will be voted on at Nov. 2 general election. But, bearing out findings in earlier studies, if a veterans' bonus would mean the levying of a state sales tax to raise funds for the payments, only 35 per cent of the voters would back the amendment, they say.

Forty per cent would be willing to indorse bonus legislation even if it were necessary to float a state bond issue to obtain the funds.



More than half (56 per cent) would support the amendment even if a state bonus payment might bring an increase in property taxes.

The amendment on which Minnesota voters will cast their ballots in November makes no reference to how the funds for a bonus would be raised. Hence questions about voters' feelings on the question "if" a sales tax, a bond issue or higher property taxes might be needed to provide the money for a bonus, are designed only to test the intensity of their convictions on the matter.

The cost of a veterans' bonus in Minnesota has been variously estimated between \$80,000,000 and \$265,000,000.

A scientific cross-section of adults through the state was asked by interviewers:

"Next November, Minnesota voters are going to vote on a law that would allow the state

HOW INQUIRIES ON FINANCING AFFECT VIEWS ON BONUS MEASURE

For Passage BEFORE Questions Asked on Bonus Financing	78%
For Passage Even With HIGHER PROPERTY TAXES	56%
For Passage Even With STATE BOND ISSUE	40%
For Passage Even With STATE SALES TAX	35%

legislature to pay a bonus to veterans of World War II. If you were voting today, how would you vote—for or against passage of the bonus law?"

Similar questions have been asked in previous Minnesota Poll surveys. These are the results of the last three surveys:

	Nov. 1947	April 1948	Today
For passage	66%	71%	78%
Against	22%	16%	16%
Qualified	4%	4%	—
Undecided	8%	9%	6%

FOR PASSAGE of the measure are:

68 per cent of the Republicans, 86 per cent of the Democratic-Farmer-Laborites and 79

per cent of the independent voters.

90 per cent of the veterans and 66 per cent of the non-veterans.

78 per cent of the people with grade school educations, 82 per cent of those with high school educations, and 64 per cent of those with college educations.

AGAINST PASSAGE were blocs of voters including:

27 per cent of the people in the upper economic group; 24 per cent of the non-veterans; 29 per cent of the college-educated people; 24 per cent of the Republicans.

All persons interviewed who said they would support passage of the bonus amendment if they were voting today were asked:

"Would you still vote in favor of the law if a state veterans bonus might bring: Higher property taxes? A state sales tax? A state bond issue?"

The answers:

	If higher property taxes	If state sales tax	If state bond issue
Yes	56%	35%	40%
No	17%	36%	22%
Undecided	5%	7%	16%
	78%	78%	78%

These are the replies of veterans (90 per cent favor passage) when compared with non-veterans (66 per cent say they'd vote for the measure):

	If higher property taxes	If state sales tax	If state bond issue
Veterans			
Yes	67%	50%	64%
No	21%	37%	23%
Undecided	2%	3%	3%
	90%	90%	90%
Non-veterans			
Yes	45%	27%	31%
No	16%	33%	19%
Undecided	5%	6%	16%
	66%	66%	66%

While half of the city residents interviewed would still be inclined to support the bonus amendment even with a sales tax as a consequence, more than half of the town and farm residents who first say they would vote for the measure indicate that they would change their minds if the state were to have a sales tax as a result.

18% of State Voters Believe Truman Is Doing a 'Poor Job'

A DECLINE in President Truman's popularity among Minnesotans which set in last fall is still continuing, a Minnesota Poll survey indicates.

While 7 per cent of the state's voters said last September they felt Mr. Truman was doing a poor job in the White House, 18 per cent are of that opinion today.

Ninety-one per cent expressed the belief last fall that he was doing a good or fair job in the presidency; today 80 per cent express that view.

The President's prestige in the state has receded almost to the point where it was in January, 1947, when 23 per cent said he was doing a poor job in the White House, and 73 per cent thought he was doing a good or fair job.

In a series of surveys, Minnesota Poll interviewers have asked representative cross-sections of the state's voting-age residents:

"Do you think President Truman is doing a good, fair or poor job in the White House?"

Results of the last four surveys show:

	Sept. 1947	Dec. 1947	April 1948	Today
Good job...	33%	28%	26%	29%
Fair job...	58%	59%	59%	51%
Poor job...	7%	9%	11%	18%
No opinion	2%	4%	4%	2%

Sharp differences are found, however, in breakdowns based on results of the latest survey. For example, 88 per cent of the members of families having lab-

or union affiliation think Mr. Truman is doing a good or fair job, and only 9 per cent say "poor job." (Farmers are omitted from that breakdown, because questions about union affiliation are asked only in cities and towns.)

Members of families without union affiliations give these answers: Good or fair job, 77 per cent; poor job, 21 per cent.

More than one in every four persons with college educations (26 per cent) think Mr. Truman is doing a poor job, compared with 15 per cent of those with grade school educations who share that opinion.

About 14 per cent of the voters between 21 and 39 years of age rate Mr. Truman's performance in office as poor, as against 20 to 22 per cent of those 40 years of age and older.

Greatest differences occur when answers are grouped according to voters' political affiliations — Republican, Democratic-Farmer-Laborite or independent:

	GOP	DFL	Ind.
Good job ...	13%	49%	24%
Fair job	53%	44%	57%
Poor job	31%	6%	17%
No opinion ..	3%	1%	2%

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

832-33 LUMBER EXCHANGE BUILDING

MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINNESOTA

Atlantic 0941

~~New Address~~ → 84 S. 10th St. Room 417

September 28, 1948

Dr. H. Z. Giffin
1447 Damon Court
Rochester, Minnesota

Dear Dr. Giffin:

We have today asked the State Governmental Research Institute to mail to you direct a copy of their bulletin No. 23 on the subject of a State Veteran's Bonus.

A brief statement of Amendment No. 4 to the State Constitution to be voted on November 2nd is included in the enclosed broadside (of which Mrs. Hargraves may have already given you a copy), although the League of Women Voters of Minnesota has taken no position either for or against the amendment. The enclosed copy of the Minnesota Poll of August 15, 1948, may be of interest.

So far our efforts to obtain any ^{other} material either pro or con have been rather fruitless but the AVC at the University has promised to mail you today what material they have. We understand they have now come out FOR the bonus.

If we succeed in obtaining anything additional we will mail it to you.

Sincerely yours,



Mrs. H. R. Simmons
Executive Secretary



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League of Women Voters of the U.S.

4 AMENDMENTS

to the Minnesota Constitution will be submitted to the voters NOVEMBER 2, 1948

REMEMBER — Failure to Vote on an Amendment is a Vote Against the Amendment!!

AMENDMENT NO. 1 provides for $\frac{1}{2}$ of the gasoline tax to go to the State Highway Department, and $\frac{1}{2}$ to the State Road and Bridge Fund. (*State Highway Funds—plus Federal Aid Construction Funds—pay for building and maintaining trunk highways and bridges on trunk highways. The Road and Bridge Fund plus Federal Secondary Construction Funds is used to construct and maintain county roads and bridges.*)

At present the State Highway Department receives $\frac{2}{3}$ and the counties $\frac{1}{3}$. Trunk highways carry 50% of the State vehicle mileage, county roads 15%. If this amendment passes, the State Trunk Highways will lose an estimated Four Million of state tax dollars. To carry out the current proposed ten-year program for trunk highway construction, the state interim committee has tenta-

tively suggested a one-cent boost in gasoline tax plus an increase in motor vehicle license fees to restore the estimated Four Million Dollars which would be lost to the state Trunk Highway System, if the amendment passes. (The one-cent gas tax increase alone would still provide One Million Dollars LESS for the trunk highways than they are NOW receiving.)

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has taken no position either for or against the gasoline tax amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 permits two or more alterations or amendments to the State Constitution to be voted on at one time.

At present when two or more amendments to the State Constitution are proposed EACH proposed amendment must be approved SEPARATELY by a majority of voters. Passage of Amendment 2 would make it POSSIBLE for

Two or More amendments to be submitted in such form that voters shall be required to vote for or against ALL of the proposed amendments as a GROUP and not on each amendment separately.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota favors a YES vote on Amendment 2 because: Passage of this amendment will make for a speedier method of modernizing of our state governmental machinery.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 will permit $\frac{2}{3}$ of both Houses of the State Legislature to provide by law for the calling of a Constitutional Convention WITHOUT SUBMITTING THE QUESTION TO A VOTE OF THE PEOPLE.

At present to have a complete revision of our 91-year-old Constitution, the law requires the following 4 steps:

1. A $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of both houses of the legislature to submit to the Voters the question of calling a Constitutional Convention.
(This means that 45 out of 67 senators and 88 out of 131 representatives must vote in the affirmative.)
- 2.* Approval of this legislative proposal by a majority of the votes cast at the next general election.

*This step will be eliminated if the amendment passes.

3. Enactment by the next legislature of a law providing for calling a Constitutional Convention, consisting of 131 members, chosen as are the members of the House of Representatives, and appropriation by the legislature of money for Convention expenses.

4. When the Convention has agreed on a new Constitution it may be, and customarily is, submitted to the voters at a general or special election for their approval.

(This process requires at least 4 years)

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota favors a YES vote on Amendment 3 because:

- a. Its passage will shorten the amending process by 2 years, thus eliminating the cost and delay of submitting legislature's proposal for calling Constitutional Convention to voters.
- b. A revision of our horse and buggy State Constitution is necessary to meet present day needs.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 authorizes the Legislature to raise money to pay a bonus to veterans of World War II.

The various bonus proposals are estimated to run from \$80 Million to \$265 Million. (State Governmental Research Bulletin No. 23, July, 1948.) To pay a bonus, your legislature may, if Amendment 4 is passed:

- a. levy taxes (general sales tax is the only major field Minnesota has not entered to date)
- b. contract debts
- c. issue or negotiate bonds or certificates of indebtedness
- d. pledge the public credit within limits set by legislature.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has taken no position either for or against the Soldiers' Bonus Amendment.

For Further Information About These Amendments Call ATLantic 6310

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNEAPOLIS

84 South Tenth Street, Room 407, Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

Proposed Amendments to State Constitution

At the general election, November 2, 1948, each voter will be handed a pink ballot so that he may vote "Yes" or "No" to four proposed Constitutional Amendments. The voter must vote on each proposal separately.

Proposals 2 and 3 Are of the Utmost Importance if We Favor Any Change in Our State Constitution.

Proposed Amendment No. 2.

The purpose of the amendment proposed by said Laws 1947, Chapter 640, is to eliminate from Article XIV, Section 1, of the State Constitution as it now reads the following words, to-wit:

"If two or more alterations or amendments shall be submitted at the same time, it shall be so regulated that the voters shall vote for or against each separately."

Article XIV, Section 1, of the State Constitution, as now worded, required that if two or more proposed amendments are submitted at the same election they shall be so submitted that the voters may vote for or against each separately. The purpose of the proposed amendment is to eliminate that requirement. The effect of its adoption would be to make it possible for the legislature to submit two or more proposed alterations or amendments to the State Constitution at the same time in such form that a voter thereon shall be required to vote for or against all of them as a group and not on each separately.

Proposed Amendment No. 3.

If the amendment is adopted, said Article XIV, Section 2, would read as follows:

"Two thirds of the members elected to each branch of the legislature may provide by law for calling a convention to revise this Constitution. The convention shall consist of as many members as the House of Representatives, who shall be chosen in the same manner and shall meet within three months after their election for the purpose aforesaid."

Under the present provisions of the Constitution, the calling of a convention to revise it requires that the legislature, by a vote of two thirds of the members of each House, shall submit to the voters of the state at the next general election the question as to whether such convention shall be called by the legislature at its next session.

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to eliminate the requirement of a vote on the question by the voters of the state and to authorize, without such vote, two thirds of the members of each House to provide by law for calling such a convention.

The effect of the proposed amendment to Article XIV, Section 2, of the State Constitution, is to transfer the power to call a convention to revise the State Constitution from the electors expressing their will by a majority of all the electors voting at said election to two thirds of the members elected to each branch of the legislature.

JUN 11 1948

League of Women Voters of Minnesota

84 South Tenth Street, Room 417

Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

FILE COPY

CHAPTER 642

An act proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Minnesota by adding thereto a new article authorizing the state to pay an adjusted compensation to persons who have served in the armed forces of the United States in time of war; the levying of taxes; the appropriation and expenditure of monies; the contracting of debts; the issuance and negotiation of bonds or certificates of indebtedness for that purpose; and repealing inconsistent provisions of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. Proposed constitutional amendment. An amendment of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota is hereby proposed to the people of the State of Minnesota for their approval or rejection, which amendment, if adopted, shall be known as Article 20 of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, which proposed amendment reads as follows:

Article 20

Section 1. Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Minnesota by adding thereto a new article authorizing the State to pay an adjusted compensation to persons who have served in the armed forces of the United States in time of war; the levying of taxes; the appropriation and expenditure of monies; the contracting of debts; the issuance and negotiation of bonds or certificates of indebtedness for that purpose. The state may at any time pay an adjusted compensation to persons who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the period from and including September 16, 1940, through December 30, 1946; may levy taxes and appropriate monies for such purpose; and if and when authorized, and in such amounts and on such terms as may be fixed by the Legislature, may expend monies, may contract debts, may issue and negotiate bonds or certificates of indebtedness, or both, and may pledge the public credit, to provide money therefor. The provisions of section 5 of Article 9 of the Constitution shall not apply to the provisions of this section, and the purposes for which the credit of the state may be given or loaned as herein provided are declared to be public purposes.

Section 2. Repealing inconsistent provisions. Any and all provisions of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota inconsistent with the provisions of this article are hereby repealed, so far, but only so far, as the same prohibit or limit the power of the legislature to enact laws authorizing or permitting the doing of the things hereinbefore authorized.

Section 2. Submitted to voters. This proposed amendment shall be submitted to the people of this state for their approval or rejection at the general election for the year 1948 in the manner provided by law for the submission of amendments to the Constitution, and the votes thereon shall be counted, canvassed, and the result thereof proclaimed as provided by law. The ballots used at such election shall have printed thereon the following: "Shall the Constitution of the State of Minnesota be amended by adding thereto a new article authorizing the state at any time to pay an adjusted compensation to persons who have served in the armed forces of the United States during the period from and including September 16, 1940,

through December 30, 1946, to levy taxes and appropriate monies for such purpose; to expend monies, contract debts, issue and negotiate bonds or certificates of indebtedness or both, and to pledge the public credit if and whenever authorized and in such amounts and on such terms as may be fixed by the legislature, and repealing inconsistent provisions of the Constitution." Yes.....No....."

Approved April 28, 1947.

JUN 11 1948

FILE COPY

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
84 South Tenth Street, Room 417
Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

CHAPTER 641

An act proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Article XIV, Section 2, so as to permit two-thirds of the members of each branch of the Legislature to provide by law for calling a constitutional convention.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. The following amendment to the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Article XIV, Section 2, is hereby proposed to the people of the state for their approval or rejection, which section when amended shall read as follows:

Sec. 2. REVISION OF CONSTITUTION. Two-thirds of the members elected to each branch of the legislature may provide by law for calling a convention to revise this Constitution. The convention shall consist of as many members as the House of Representatives, who shall be chosen in the same manner, and shall meet within three months after their election for the purpose aforesaid.

Sec. 2. SUBMITTED TO VOTERS. The proposed amendment shall be submitted to the voters of the state for their approval or rejection at the general election for the year 1948 in the manner provided by law for submission of amendments to the constitution. The ballots used at the election on the proposed amendment shall have printed thereon:

"Shall the Constitution, Article XIV, Section 2, be amended so as to permit two-thirds of the members of each branch of the legislature to provide by law for calling a constitutional convention without submitting the question to a vote of the people?"

Approved April 28, 1947.

JUN 11 1948

FULL COPY

CHAPTER 639

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
84 South Tenth Street, Room 417
Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

An act proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Article IX, Section 5, pertaining to the distribution of the excise tax on petroleum products.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. The following amendment to the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Article IX, Section 5, is hereby proposed to the people of the state for their approval or rejection, which section, when amended, shall read as follows:

Sec. 5. STATE DEBT LIMITED; HOW CONTRACTED. For the purpose of defraying extraordinary expenditures, the state may contract public debts, but such debts shall never, in the aggregate, exceed two hundred and fifty thousand dollars; every such debt shall be authorized by law, for some single object, to be distinctly specified therein; and no such law shall take effect until it shall have been passed by the vote of two-thirds of the members of each branch of the legislature, to be recorded by yeas and nays on the journals of each house respectively; and every such law shall levy a tax annually sufficient to pay the annual interest of such debt, and also a tax sufficient to pay the principal of such debt within ten years from the final passage of such law, and shall specially appropriate the proceeds of such taxes to the payment of such principal and interest; and such appropriation and taxes shall not be repealed, postponed, or diminished, until the principal and interest of such debt shall have been wholly paid. The state shall never contract any debts for works of internal improvements, or be a party in carrying on such works, except as authorized by Section 16 of Article 9, and by Article 16 of this Constitution, but it may levy an excise tax upon any substance, material, fluid, force or other means or instrumentality, or the business of dealing in, selling or producing any or all thereof, used or useful, in producing or generating power for propelling motor or other vehicles used on the public highways of this state, and shall place one-half of the proceeds of such tax in the Trunk Highway Fund provided for in Section 2 of said Article 16, and one-half thereof in the State Road and Bridge Fund. And further, except in cases where grants of land or other property shall have been made

to the State, especially dedicated by the grant to specific purposes, and in such cases the state shall devote thereto the avails of such grants, and may pledge or appropriate the revenues derived from such works in aid of their completion.

Sec. 2. SUBMITTED TO VOTERS. The proposed amendment shall be submitted to the voters of the state for their approval or rejection at the general election for the year 1948 in the manner provided by law for the submission of amendments to the constitution. The ballots used at the election on the proposed amendment shall have printed thereon:

Shall the Constitution, Article IX, Section 5, be amended so as to provide that the proceeds of the excise tax on petroleum products be apportioned as follows:

Of the proceeds of such tax, one-half thereof in Trunk Highway Fund and one-half thereof in State Road and Bridge Fund.

Approved April 28, 1947.

JUN 11 1948

CHAPTER 640

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
84 South Tenth Street, Room 417
Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

An act proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Article XIV, Section 1, so as to permit the submission to the voters of two or more amendments without requiring that the voters shall vote for or against each separately.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: The following amendment to the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Article XIV, Section 1, is hereby proposed to the people of the state for their approval or rejection, which section when amended shall read as follows:

Section 1. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION; MAJORITY VOTE OF ELECTORS VOTING MAKES AMENDMENT VALID. Whenever a majority of both houses of the legislature shall deem it necessary to alter or amend this Constitution, they may propose such alterations or amendments, which proposed amendments shall be published with the laws which have been passed at the same session, and said amendments shall be submitted to the people for their approval or rejection at any general election, and if it shall appear, in a manner to be provided by law, that a majority of all the electors voting at said election shall have voted for and ratified such alterations or amendments, the same shall be valid to all intents and purposes as a part of this Constitution.

Section 2. SUBMITTED TO VOTERS. The proposed amendment shall be submitted to the voters of the state for their approval or rejection at the general election for the year 1948 in the manner provided by law for submission of amendments to the constitution. The ballots used at the election on the proposed amendment shall have printed thereon:

"Shall the Constitution, Article XIV, Section 1, be amended so that two or more alterations or amendments to the Constitution may be submitted at one time without requiring that the voters shall vote for or against each separately?"

Approved April 28, 1947.

FILE COPY

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

832-33 LUMBER EXCHANGE BUILDING September 27, 1948
MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINNESOTA

Dear President:

Atlantic 0941

We realize as autumn gets under way that there are no unemployed local Leagues in Minnesota. Encouraging and exciting reports of pre-election activities, United Nations Workshops, and outlines of the year's work have come into the office.

AREA CONFERENCES ON STATE CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

Plans are now complete for the area conferences on Constitutional Revision. Listed below are the places and the dates.

Please send on the enclosed stamped, addressed postal card, not later than October 4th, the number of luncheon reservations that you will need for your League's representatives at the conference. There will be no luncheon arrangements made for those Leagues which do not request reservations and reservations which are not used must be cancelled at least twenty-four hours in advance, or paid for by the League which made them.

<u>Conference</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>	<u>Luncheon Speaker</u>
HIBBING	Friday, October 15th	Androy Hotel (A.M. meeting and luncheon)	Sen. Elmer Peterson of Hibbing
MINNEAPOLIS	Wednesday, Oct. 13th	A. M. Meeting: Y.W.C.A., 1130 Nicollet Ave. Luncheon: (\$1.00) Sheridan Hotel, 1112 Marquette	Mr. Val Bjornson
OLIVIA	Thursday, Oct. 14th	To be announced (Luncheon 85¢)	To be announced
OWATONNA	Tuesday, Oct. 12th	A. M. Meeting: Gainey Room, Owatonna Public Library Luncheon: Hotel Owatonna	Rep. Robert J. Sheran of Mankato
PARK RAPIDS	Thursday, Oct. 14th	A. M. Meeting: Community Club Rooms (above fire hall) Luncheon: (\$1.25) Bert's Cafe	Sen. A. R. Johanson of Wheaton



Affiliated with the
League of Women Voters of the U. S.

meetings begin at Ten O'clock. Luncheons will begin at 12:30 O'clock.

At the conferences we will have ready material on Constitutional Revision to assist you in preparation of radio scripts, or talks before groups. There will be, also, a summary of the Committee Reports and a brief history of the formation of the Minnesota Constitutional Commission.

September 27, 1948

BROADSIDE ON 4 AMENDMENTS TO STATE CONSTITUTION
TO BE VOTED ON NOVEMBER 2nd

A copy of the broadside, prepared and donated by the Minneapolis League, which explains the four amendments to the State Constitution to be voted on at the general election November 2nd is enclosed. Also enclosed is a copy of the letter we are mailing to your Voter's Service Chairman containing suggestions for distribution and publicity. If you have not done so, please send us immediately your order for the number of broadsides you can use. This is an opportunity for Leagues to do a thorough educational job on the importance of voting on amendments and to begin their campaign for understanding of the need for constitutional changes in Minnesota.

- - - - -

I hope the summer has refreshed you to meet the stimulating demands of this important election and legislative year.

Sincerely,

Malcolm Hargraves

Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves
President

MH:s
Encs.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

832-33 LUMBER EXCHANGE BUILDING

MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINNESOTA

Atlantic 0941

September 27, 1948

Dear Voters' Service Chairman:

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

1. There will be two League-supported amendments to the State Constitution of the four on the ballot November 2nd?
2. The passage of these two amendments is vital to a speedier, more efficient process of Constitutional Revision?
3. An average of only 67% of the voters in each election vote either way on amendments?
4. The passage of an amendment requires a Yes vote by the majority of ALL voters in the election and 13 out of 18 amendments have NOT passed because the other 33% ignored them completely?
5. The League of Women Voters has been entrusted with a major part of the public education job necessary to Constitutional revision?

SECURING THE PASSAGE OF THESE TWO AMENDMENTS (Nos. 2 and 3) TO FACILITATE AND SHORTEN THE REVISION PROCESS IS OUR FIRST BIG TASK. It is the "opening gun" in our campaign for a new or revised State Constitution. We must use every means in our power to accomplish it.

Enclosed you will find a broadside prepared and published by the Minneapolis League of Women Voters. How many can you use? They're free. Make your plans for wide distribution and order them immediately from the State Office. If you feel that the name of the Minneapolis League appearing on the bottom of the broadside will confuse people or in any way complicate distribution thereof, cut it off. The Minneapolis League has given permission to local Leagues to do so. Won't you please, too, stamp on the broadside your local League name and a telephone number that can be called for further information? Boy or Girl Scouts may like to help with the stamping.

When you make your plans, use your Election Handbook, Voters' Service Check List and the brown poster No. 109. They'll give you loads of ideas you can adapt to your community. You're going to try a door-to-door "get out the vote" campaign, aren't you? When you go take these broadsides with you. Use the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the milk companies, the paper boys. Secure permission to place a copy under each plate at Kiwanis, Lions, Rotery or other club luncheons.

We will have for you at the Area Conferences on Constitutional Revision a copy of a speech and a list of speakers on Constitutional Revision. Offer to secure one of them for the above mentioned luncheons. Also coming to you via the Area Conferences on Revision are suggestions for two radio forums - one on the amendments and the other on Constitutional Revision itself. Contact your local radio station and ask them for time.



Affiliated with the
League of Women Voters of the U.S.

September 27, 1948

The Public Relations Committee is sending out a prepared newspaper release on the amendments through the Minnesota Editorial Association for October 4th publication. Tell your editor about it and ask him to use it.

That's all for now. Order your broadsides as soon and in as large quantities as possible - and good luck to you.

Sincerely,

Avis Brustuen

Mrs. Reuben C. Brustuen, Voters' Serv. Chrmn.

Ann Kehl

Mrs. Raymond E. Kehl, Public Relations Chrmn.

Enc.

4 AMENDMENTS

to the Minnesota Constitution will be submitted to the voters NOVEMBER 2, 1948

REMEMBER — Failure to Vote on an Amendment is a Vote Against the Amendment!!

AMENDMENT NO. 1 provides for $\frac{1}{2}$ of the gasoline tax to go to the State Highway Department, and $\frac{1}{2}$ to the State Road and Bridge Fund. (*State Highway Funds—plus Federal Aid Construction Funds—pay for building and maintaining trunk highways and bridges on trunk highways. The Road and Bridge Fund plus Federal Secondary Construction Funds is used to construct and maintain county roads and bridges.*)

At present the State Highway Department receives $\frac{2}{3}$ and the counties $\frac{1}{3}$. Trunk highways carry 50% of the State vehicle mileage, county roads 15%. If this amendment passes, the State Trunk Highways will lose an estimated Four Million of state tax dollars. To carry out the current proposed ten-year program for trunk highway construction, the state interim committee has tentatively suggested a one-cent boost in gasoline tax plus an increase in motor vehicle license fees to restore the estimated Four Million Dollars which would be lost to the state Trunk Highway System, if the amendment passes. (The one-cent gas tax increase alone would still provide One Million Dollars LESS for the trunk highways than they are NOW receiving.)

tively suggested a one-cent boost in gasoline tax plus an increase in motor vehicle license fees to restore the estimated Four Million Dollars which would be lost to the state Trunk Highway System, if the amendment passes. (The one-cent gas tax increase alone would still provide One Million Dollars LESS for the trunk highways than they are NOW receiving.)

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has taken no position either for or against the gasoline tax amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 permits two or more alterations or amendments to the State Constitution to be voted on at one time.

At present when two or more amendments to the State Constitution are proposed EACH proposed amendment must be approved SEPARATELY by a majority of voters. Passage of Amendment 2 would make it POSSIBLE for

Two or More amendments to be submitted in such form that voters shall be required to vote for or against ALL of the proposed amendments as a GROUP and not on each amendment separately.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota favors a YES vote on Amendment 2 because: Passage of this amendment will make for a speedier method of modernizing of our state governmental machinery.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 will permit $\frac{2}{3}$ of both Houses of the State Legislature to provide by law for the calling of a Constitutional Convention WITHOUT SUBMITTING THE QUESTION TO A VOTE OF THE PEOPLE.

At present to have a complete revision of our 91-year-old Constitution, the law requires the following 4 steps:

1. A $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of both houses of the legislature to submit to the Voters the question of calling a Constitutional Convention.

(This means that 45 out of 67 senators and 88 out of 131 representatives must vote in the affirmative.)

2.* Approval of this legislative proposal by a majority of the votes cast at the next general election.

*This step will be eliminated if the amendment passes.

3. Enactment by the next legislature of a law providing for calling a Constitutional Convention, consisting of 131 members, chosen as are the members of the House of Representatives, and appropriation by the legislature of money for Convention expenses.

4. When the Convention has agreed on a new Constitution it may be, and customarily is, submitted to the voters at a general or special election for their approval.

(This process requires at least 4 years)

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota favors a YES vote on Amendment 3 because:

a. Its passage will shorten the amending process by 2 years, thus eliminating the cost and delay of submitting legislature's proposal for calling Constitutional Convention to voters.

b. A revision of our horse and buggy State Constitution is necessary to meet present day needs.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 authorizes the Legislature to raise money to pay a bonus to veterans of World War II.

The various bonus proposals are estimated to run from \$80 Million to \$265 Million. (State Governmental Research Bulletin No. 23, July, 1948.) To pay a bonus, your legislature may, if Amendment 4 is passed:

- levy taxes (general sales tax is the only major field Minnesota has not entered to date)
- contract debts
- issue or negotiate bonds or certificates of indebtedness
- pledge the public credit within limits set by legislature.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has taken no position either for or against the Soldiers' Bonus Amendment.

For Further Information About These Amendments Call ATLANTIC 6310

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNEAPOLIS

84 South Tenth Street, Room 407, Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

832-33 LUMBER EXCHANGE BUILDING

MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINNESOTA

September 27, 1948

Atlantic 0941

Dear Voters' Service Chairman:

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

1. There will be two League-supported amendments to the State Constitution of the four on the ballot November 2nd?
2. The passage of these two amendments is vital to a speedier, more efficient process of Constitutional Revision?
3. An average of only 67% of the voters in each election vote either way on amendments?
4. The passage of an amendment requires a Yes vote by the majority of ALL voters in the election and 13 out of 18 amendments have NOT passed because the other 33% ignored them completely?
5. The League of Women Voters has been entrusted with a major part of the public education job necessary to Constitutional revision?

SECURING THE PASSAGE OF THESE TWO AMENDMENTS (Nos. 2 and 3) TO FACILITATE AND SHORTEN THE REVISION PROCESS IS OUR FIRST BIG TASK. It is the "opening gun" in our campaign for a new or revised State Constitution. We must use every means in our power to accomplish it.

Enclosed you will find a broadside prepared and published by the Minneapolis League of Women Voters. How many can you use? They're free. Make your plans for wide distribution and order them immediately from the State Office. If you feel that the name of the Minneapolis League appearing on the bottom of the broadside will confuse people or in any way complicate distribution thereof, cut it off. The Minneapolis League has given permission to local Leagues to do so. Won't you please, too, stamp on the broadside your local League name and a telephone number that can be called for further information? Boy or Girl Scouts may like to help with the stamping.

When you make your plans, use your Election Handbook, Voters' Service Check List and the brown poster No. 109. They'll give you loads of ideas you can adapt to your community. You're going to try a door-to-door "get out the vote" campaign, aren't you? When you go take these broadsides with you. Use the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the milk companies, the paper boys. Secure permission to place a copy under each plate at Kiwanis, Lions, Rotery or other club luncheons.

We will have for you at the Area Conferences on Constitutional Revision a copy of a speech and a list of speakers on Constitutional Revision. Offer to secure one of them for the above mentioned luncheons. Also coming to you via the Area Conferences on Revision are suggestions for two radio forums - one on the amendments and the other on Constitutional Revision itself. Contact your local radio station and ask them for time.



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Enc.

The American Veterans Committee, Inc.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA CHAPTER

ROOM 321 • COFFMAN MEMORIAL UNION

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

SEP 29 1948

September 28, 1948

Mrs. H.R. Simmons
Minnesota League of Women Voters
84 South 10th Street
Minneapolis 2, Minn.

Dear Mrs. Simmons,

In response to your request that we send some material to Doctor Giffin of Rochester, Minnesota, we have mailed him our file folder on the state bonus for veterans containing pro and con arguments.

You also asked us to forward whatever copies of that above material we may have to your organization. We regret that we cannot send you more than the enclosure (from a preliminary draft of the AVC platform of 1948.) However, we believe that you may acquire the information you seek in several ways:

First, of course, you can get the material from Dr. Giffin whom we have informed may return the articles at his convenience.

Secondly, if the first is not satisfactory, we suggest that you write directly to the Minnesota Daily for the articles that have appeared in that college newspaper relating to the bonus. Those articles will also trace AVC's position and activities in that regard.

We trust that the above suggestions will partially compensate for our inability to assist you directly. If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to call on us again.

Sincerely yours,

Chuck Gendreau
Chuck Gendreau, Chairman

Citizens First . . .

. . . Veterans Second

WHAT IS BEST FOR THE COUNTRY IS BEST FOR THE VETERAN

court) which have no relation to public policy and in which the work is routine in character. It is understood that all judges and justices will be secure in their present tenure. _____

VI. VETERANS AFFAIRS

A. In view of the continued rise in prices and the apparent unwillingness of the present Congress to effectively combat this trend, we favor subsistence allowances for veterans receiving education under the GI Bill of Rights, based on a sliding scale, geared to the "Cost of Living Index" of the Bureau of Labor Statistics - base to be date of passage of GI Bill. _____

B. We further advocate that this same principle be applied to all veterans disability pensions. _____

C. We oppose the "false economy moves" now under way in the V.A. which, through elimination of adequate training supervision, can only lead to a re-occurrence of early G.I. Bill abuses. _____

D. We favor continuation of National Service Life term insurance beyond the 8 year (from date of application) limit. _____

E. We recommend the establishment by the state legislature of a revolving fund to loan money at low interest rates to veterans desiring to establish their own farms and businesses; and further that these farms and businesses be allowed to deduct payments on interest and principal of their indebtedness from net income computed for tax purposes. _____

*AVC
STATE
PLATFORM
MAY
1948*
~~majority~~ **MINORITY**
F. We are not in favor of a bonus. We favor enactment of such legislation as will provide for a permanent high level of employment, adequate housing, education, public welfare services, and such expenditures as are necessary to the establishment of a healthy environment in which the veteran and his fellow citizens can thrive. We are especially opposed to any bonus plan which would raise the required funds through the levying of the sales tax. _____

2. ~~minority~~ **MAJORITY**

A state bonus is favored as long as it does not impose and is is not based upon regressive taxation. _____

VII. LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

A. We stand for the rights of labor and commend the fine record of accomplishment of organized labor in Minnesota in raising the security and living standards of the people of this state.

B. We call for the defeat of all practices and legislation designed to curtail the rights and gains of organized labor, such

as government use of the injunction, abolition of the closed shop, the abolition of industrywide bargaining, and the outlawing of the secondary boycott.

C. We believe in the cooperation of labor, industry, and government to attain full production and full employment. To this end we urge the extension of the use of the annual wage wherever possible, and the formation of a state economic council to plan for full production and employment in the state of Minnesota.

D. In addition, to further the implementation of economic welfare of the people of the state, we propose liberalization of workmen's compensation, extension of minimum wage and hour standards to conform to present federal standards.

E. We propose the revision of the State Labor Relations Act to provide the elimination of the strike notice as a prerequisite for obtaining state conciliation service and that such service shall be afforded by a fact-finding commission selected on a non-partisan basis.

F. We ask for modification of the state exemption law to provide a \$100 a month wage exemption.

G. We call on labor unions to voluntarily end all jurisdictional disputes between legitimate labor unions.

H. We affirm our belief in the American system of private enterprise and oppose monopolistic attempts to throttle competition by industry, agriculture and labor.

I. We call on management and labor to bring about a lowering of the price level by attaining maximum production wherever possible.

J. We firmly believe that such a policy of full employment and full production will serve the interests of business, labor, government institutions and thereby, the state and community as a whole. Whenever it is necessary to call the National Guard to quell violence in labor-management disputes, we urge that the industry affected be seized and closed at the same time.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
University of Minnesota
15 & Washington Avenue S. E.
Minneapolis 14, Minn.

Amendment

FILE COPY

Do not remove

*amending
process*

MINNESOTA CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION

TABLE OF
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MINNESOTA CONSTITUTION
1857 - 1947

October, 1947

Complete

Note: That portion of this table listing proposed amendments from 1857 to 1919 has been taken from Appendix 3 of A History of the Constitution of Minnesota by William Anderson and Albert J. Lobb (1921) and is reproduced with the permission of the publisher, the University of Minnesota.

No. of Amend. In Or- der of Proposal	Citation		Provision of Constitution to be Amended		Purpose of Amendment	Adopted or Rejected	Vote on Amendment		Total Vote at Election
	Sess.	Laws	Chap.	Art.	Sec.		Yes	No	
1	1857-58		1	9	10	To authorize \$5,000,000 railroad loan.	A	25,023	6,733 (Special election)
2	1857-58		2	5	7	To establish state government May 1, 1858.	A		
3	1860		22	4	1	To limit legislative sessions to sixty days.	A	19,785	442 Presidential vote 34,737
4	1860	Concur Resolution No. 1		9	2, 10	To require popular approval of tax to pay rail- road bonds; to repeal the \$5,000,000 amendment.	A	18,648	743 Presidential vote 34,737
	1861					No amendments were proposed.			
	1862					No amendments were proposed.			
	1863					No amendments were proposed.			
	1864					No amendments were proposed.			
5	1865		57	7	1	To authorize negroes to vote.	R	12,135	14,651 For Governor 31,160
	1866					No amendments were proposed.			
6	1867		25	7	1	To authorize negroes to vote.	R	27,479	28,794 For Governor 64,376
7	1867		118	9	4	To subject shares in state and national banks to state taxation	R	8,742	34,351 For Governor 64,376
8	1868		106	7	1	To authorize negroes to vote.	A	39,493	30,121 Presidential vote 71,818
9	1868		107	1	7	To abolish requirement of grand jury.	R	14,763	30,544 Presidential vote 71,818
10	1868		108	15	Add 6	To authorize sale of 500,000 acres of internal improvement lands and investment of proceeds in state or national securities.	R	19,398	28,729 Presidential vote 71,818
11	1869		50	11	Add 7	To abolish Manomin county.	A	13,392	1,671 For Governor 54,525
12	1869		51	9	1	To authorize special assessments for local im- provements.	A	26,636	2,560 For Governor 54,525
13	1870		21	10	3	To exempt holders of railroad stock from double liability.	R	7,446	11,210 (Legislative election)
14	1871		18	4	Add 32(a)	To require popular approval of changes in rail- road gross earnings tax law.	A	41,814	9,216 For Governor 78,172
15	1871		19	9	Add 14	To authorize state loan for asylum buildings.	R	6,724	40,797 For Governor 78,172
16	1872		11	9	Add 14(a)	To authorize state loan for asylum buildings.	A	29,158	26,881 Presidential vote 90,919
17	1872		12	10	3	To exempt stockholders in manufacturing or mechanical businesses from double liability.	A	23,091	21,794 Presidential vote 90,919
18	1872		13	9	Add 14(b)	To restrict issuance of county, town, and muni- cipal bonds to aid railroads.	A	27,916	7,796 Presidential vote 90,919

No. of Amend. In Or- der of Proposal	Citation		Provision of Constitution to be Amended		Purpose of Amendment	Adopted or Rejected	Vote on Amendment		Total Vote at Election
	Sess. Laws	Chap.	Art.	Sess.			Yes	No	
19	1872	14	4	Add 32(b)	To provide for sale of internal improvement lands	A	55,438	4,331	Presidential vote 90,919
20	1873	3	4	1	To provide for biennial sessions of legislature.	R	14,007	31,729	For Governor 77,057
21	1873	3	4	24	To extend terms of representatives and senators to two and four years, respectively.	R	11,675	24,331	For Governor 77,057
22	1873	3	5	2	To provide for state canvassing board.	R	12,116	25,694	For Governor 77,057
23	1873	4	9	12	To provide more effectively for the safe-keeping of public funds.	A	27,143	5,438	For Governor 77,057
	1874				No amendments were proposed.				
24	1875	1	6	4	To provide for an indefinite number of judges in each judicial district.	A	22,560	18,534	For Governor 84,017
25	1875	2	7	Add 8	To authorize legislature to grant women the suffrage in school affairs.	A	24,340	19,468	For Governor 84,017
26	1875	3	8	2	To prescribe manner in which school funds could be invested.	A	28,755	10,517	For Governor 84,017
27	1875	4	10	3	To establish single liability for stockholders in ordinary business corporations.	R	16,349	25,858	For Governor 84,017
28	1876	1	4	11	To authorize governor to veto items of appropriation bills.	A	47,302	4,426	Presidential vote 123,931
29	1876	2	10	3	To establish single liability for stockholders in all corporations except banks.	R	21,721	22,830	Presidential vote 123,931
30	1876	3	6	3	To authorize district judges to sit on supreme bench when supreme court justices disqualified.	A	41,069	6,063	Presidential vote 123,931
31	1877	1	4	1	To establish biennial sessions of legislature.	A	37,995	20,833	For Governor 98,614
32	1877	1	4	24	To extend terms of representatives and senators to two and four years, respectively.	A	33,072	25,099	For Governor 98,614
33	1877	1	5	2	To provide for state canvassing board.	A	36,072	21,814	For Governor 98,614
34	1877	2	7	Add 9	To authorize women to vote in local option elections.	R	26,468	32,963	For Governor 98,614
35	1877	3	8	3	To prohibit use of state school funds to support sectarian schools.	A	36,780	16,667	For Governor 98,614
36	1877	4	10	3	To establish single liability for stockholders in all corporations except banks.	R	24,415	26,020	For Governor 98,614
37	1877	5	4	32(b)	To authorize sale of internal improvement lands and use of proceeds to pay railroad bonds.	R			For Governor 98,614
	1878				No amendments were proposed.				
38	1879	1	9	Add 15	To restrict issuance of county, town, and municipal bonds to aid railroads.	A	54,810	1,700	For Governor 99,048

No. of Amend- In Or- der of Proposal	Citation		Provision of Constitution to be Amended		Purpose of Amendment	Adopted or Rejected	Vote on Amendment		Total Vote at Election	
	Sess.	Laws	Chap.	Art.			Sec.	Yes		No
39	1881		1	9	1	To authorize levy of water-mains assessments on a frontage basis.	A	35,019	18,320	For Governor 102,193
40	1881		2	4	1	To remove time limitation from sessions of legislature.	R			For Governor 102,193
41	1881		2	4	7	To regulate compensation of legislators.	R			For Governor 102,193
42	1881		3	4	33, 34	To prohibit special legislation on certain sub-jects.	A	56,491	8,369	For Governor 102,193
43	1881		4	8	2	To provide for sale of swamp lands and appro- priation of proceeds of swamp land funds.	A	51,903	8,440	For Governor 102,193
	1881		(Special session)			No amendments were proposed.				
44	1883		1	5	5	To make auditor's term four years, to conform to system of biennial elections.	A	74,375	24,359	For Governor 130,713
45	1883		2	7	9	To establish the official year and to provide for a system of biennial elections.	A	75,782	24,082	For Governor 130,713
46	1883		3	6	2	To make term of clerk of supreme court four instead of three years	A	73,565	24,016	For Governor 130,713
47	1883		3	6	3	To make terms of justice of supreme court six instead of seven years.	A	73,565	24,016	For Governor 130,713
48	1883		3	6	4	To make terms of district judges six instead of seven years.	A	73,565	24,016	For Governor 130,713
49	1885		1	8	5	To provide for loans of state school funds to counties and school districts.	A	131,533	17,914	For Governor, 1886 220,558
50	1887		1	4	35	To prohibit the monopolization of the markets of food products.	A	194,932	13,064	For Governor, 1888 261,632
51	1887		2	1	12	To guarantee the payment of liens of workmen and material-men out of exempted property.	A	153,908	48,649	For Governor, 1888 261,632
52	1887		3	4	1	To extend biennial sessions of legislature to ninety days each.	A	150,003	52,946	For Governor, 1888 261,632
53	1889		1	1	4	To provide for verdicts by five sixths of jury in civil cases.	A	66,929	41,341	For Governor, 1890 240,892
54	1891		1	4	33	To extend and strengthen the prohibition against special legislation.	A	77,614	19,583	For Governor, 1892 255,921
55	1891		2	9	3	To authorize various gross earnings taxes and a tonnage tax on iron ore.	R	53,372	82,910	For Governor, 1892 255,921
56	1893		1	9	1	To authorize inheritance taxes.	A	108,332	41,242	For Governor, 1894 296,249
57	1895		2	5	4	To take pardoning power from governor and to confer it on a pardon board.	A	130,354	45,097	For Governor, 1896 337,229
58	1895		3	7	1	To prohibit aliens from voting.	A	97,980	52,454	For Governor, 1896 337,229

No. of Amend. In Or- der of Proposal	Citation		Provision of Constitution to be Amended		Purpose of Amendment	Adopted or Rejected	Vote on Amendment		Total Vote at Election	
	Sess.	Laws	Chap.	Art.			Sec.	Yes		No
59	1895		4	4	Add 36	To authorize home rule for cities.	A	107,086	58,312	For Governor, 1896 337,229
60	1895		5	1	13	To require compensation for property destroyed or damaged for public use.	A	101,188	56,839	For Governor, 1896 337,229
61	1895		6	8	Add 6	To permit cities, towns, and villages, as well as counties and school districts, to borrow school and university funds.	A	127,151	36,134	For Governor, 1896 337,229
62	1895		7	9	Add	To provide flexible system for taxing large corporations.	A	163,694	42,922	For Governor, 1896 337,229
63	1897		175	7	8	To permit women to vote for and serve on library boards.	A	71,704	43,660	For Governor, 1898 252,562
64	1897		185	14	1	To make it more difficult to amend constitution	A	69,760	32,881	For Governor, 1898 252,562
65	1897		280	4	36	To amend the municipal home rule section.	A	68,754	32,068	For Governor, 1898 252,562
66	1897		333	9	Add 16	To provide state road and bridge fund.	A	70,043	38,017	For Governor, 1898 252,562
67	1899		92	8	6	To increase debt limit of municipalities borrowing permanent school funds.	R			For Governor, 1900 314,181
68	1901		p. iii	9	16	To increase state road and bridge tax, and to eliminate restrictions on expenditure of fund.	R	114,969	23,948	276,071
69	1901		p. iv	8	6	To increase debt limit of municipalities borrowing permanent school funds.	R	116,766	20,777	276,071
70	1902		I Extra sess.	9	1,2,3	To simplify the taxing provisions of the constitution.	R	124,584	21,251	276,071
71	1903		25	8	6	To increase debt limit of municipalities borrowing school and university funds.	A	190,718	39,334	322,692
72	1903		269	1	7	To abolish the requirement of a grand jury.	A	164,055	52,152	322,692
73	1905		168	9	1,2,3, 4, and 1895 Amendment	To simplify the taxing provisions by a "wide open" section.	A	156,051	46,982	284,366
74	1905		212	9	16	To increase state road and bridge tax, and to reduce restrictions on expenditure of funds. <i>4-In subsequent litigation this amendment was declared to have been adopted.</i>	R ⁴ A	141,870	49,232	284,366
75	1905		283	1	Add 18	To permit farmers to sell their produce without licenses.	A	190,897	34,094	284,366
76	1907		477	9	1	To limit the exemption of church property from taxation to that "used for religious purposes."	R	134,141	65,776	355,263
77	1907		478	9	16	To permit unlimited state taxation for road and bridge purposes.	R	154,226	56,557	355,263
78	1907		479	9	Add 17	To authorize state hail insurance.	R	137,710	61,084	355,263

No. of Amend. In Or- der of Proposal	Citation		Provision of Constitution to be Amended		Purpose of Amendment	Adopted or Rejected	Vote on Amendment		Total Vote at Election
	Sess.	Laws Chap.	Art.	Sec.			Yes	No	
79	1907	480	7	7	To authorize legislature to establish education- al qualifications for county superintendents of schools.	R	169,785	42,114	355,263
80	1909	506	9	16	To permit state to assume half the cost of any road or bridge project.	A	159,746	44,387	310,165
81	1909	507	9	11	To repeal the requirement as to publication of treasurer's report annually in a St. Paul news- paper and also in the biennial session laws.	R	123,787	51,650	310,165
82	1909	508	9	Add 17	To authorize state hail insurance.	R	108,926	63,205	310,165
83	1909	509	4	23	To authorize reapportionment of legislative representation at any time.	R	95,181	61,520	310,165
84	1909	510	9	Add 18	To authorize and require an annual state tax for reforestation work.	R	100,168	63,962	310,165
85	1909	511	9	Add 17a	To authorize tax exemptions to encourage re- forestation.	R	87,943	73,697	310,165
86	1911	390	9	16	To authorize a one mill state tax for roads and bridges, and to permit state to assume entire cost of any project.	A	195,724	51,135	349,678
87	1911	391	9	Add 17	To authorize state hail insurance.	R	145,173	60,439	349,678
88	1911	392	8	6	To authorize investment of school and university funds in first mortgages on improved farms.	R	168,440	39,483	349,678
89	1911	393	4	36	To amend the municipal home rule clause to authorize commission government and for other purposes.	R	157,086	41,971	349,678
90	1911	394	7	7	To authorize legislature to establish education- al qualifications for county superintendents of schools.	R	167,983	36,584	349,678
91	1911	395	4	2	To limit size of state senate and number of senators from any county.	R	122,457	77,187	349,678
	1912	(Extra session)			No amendments were proposed.				
92	1913	584	4	1	To establish the initiative and referendum.	R	168,004	41,577	356,906
93	1913	585	6	2	To increase number of justices of supreme court, and to authorize the court to appoint its clerk.	R	127,352	68,886	356,906
94	1913	586	8	2	To authorize a revolving fund for improving state school and swamp lands.	R	162,951	47,906	356,906
95	1913	587	9	11	To repeal the requirement as to publication of treasurer's report annually in a St. Paul news- paper and also in the biennial session laws.	R	131,213	58,827	356,906
96	1913	588	8	6	To authorize investment of school and university funds in first mortgages on improved farms.	R	159,531	38,145	356,906
97	1913	589	6	7	To extend terms of probate judges to four years.	R	128,601	64,214	356,906
98	1913	590	4	2	To limit size of state senate and number of senators from any county.	R	98,144	84,436	356,906

20 R 18 H 2

No. of Amend. In Or- der of Proposal	Citation		Provision of Constitution to be Amended		Purpose of Amendment	Adopted or Rejected	Vote on Amendment		Total Vote at Election
	Sess.	Laws	Chap.	Art. Sec.			Yes	No	
99	1913		591	9 Add 17a	To authorize state bounties for reforestation.	R	108,352	63,782	356,906
100	1913		592	8 Add 7	To authorize certain public lands to be set aside as state forests.	A	178,954	44,033	356,906
101	1913		593	7 Add 10	To authorize the recall by the voters of "every public official in Minnesota, elective or ap- pointive."	R	139,801	44,961	356,906
102	1913		594	9 Add 18	To authorize special dog taxes and use of pro- ceeds to compensate owners of animals injured by dogs.	R	136,671	59,786	356,906
103	1915		379	8 2	To authorize a revolving fund for improving state school and swamp lands.	A	240,975	58,100	416,215
104	1915		380	8 6	To authorize investment of school and university funds in first mortgages on improved farms.	A	211,529	56,147	416,215
105	1915		381	9 Add 17	To authorize the state to mine ore under public waters.	R	183,597	64,255	416,215
106	1915		382	6 2	To increase number of justices of supreme court, and to authorize the court to appoint its own clerk.	R	130,363	108,002	416,215
107	1915		383	4 11	To authorize the governor to cut down items in appropriation bills	R	136,700	83,324	416,215
108	1915		384	1 13	To authorize condemnation of private lands for construction of private drainage ditches.	R	132,741	97,432	416,215
109	1915		385	4 1	To establish the initiative and referendum.	R	187,711	51,544	416,215
110	1915		386	6 7	To extend terms of probate judges to four years.	R	186,847	72,361	416,215
111	1917		515	15 Add 6	To prohibit the manufacture and the sale of liquor.	R	189,614	173,665	380,604
112	1919		530	Add art. 16	To provide a state trunk highway system.	A	526,936	199,603	797,945
113	1919		531	6 7	To extend terms of probate judges to four years.	A	446,959	171,414	797,945
114	1919		532	9 1	To authorize state income tax and to change pro- visions as to property exempt from taxes.	R	331,105	217,558	797,945
	1919	(Extra session)			No amendments were proposed.				

16 R 11 H 5

No. of Amend. In Or- der of Proposal	Citation		Prov. of Const. to be Amended		Purpose of Amendment	Adopted or Rejected	Vote on Amendment		Total Vote at Election	
	Sess.	Laws	Chap.	Art.			Sec.	Yes		No
115	1921		528	9	10	To authorize loaning the credit of the state to aid in the development of agricultural resources.	A	534,310	73,917	714,630
116	1921		529	9	Add 1a	To impose a tax on the business of mining or producing iron ore or other ores and providing for the distribution of such taxes.	A	474,697	91,011	714,630
117	1923		447	9	5	To authorize placing in and to credit to the "Trunk Highway Fund" any or all excise taxes levied and collected on the business of selling or dealing in fluids used, or which can be used, for motor vehicle power purposes.	A	520,769	197,455	869,151
118	1923		448	4	36	To change the requirements for the publication of proposed amendments to charters of cities and villages.	R	246,414	200,391	869,151
119	1923		449	Add 17		To authorize the establishing of state owned public terminal grain elevators.	R	253,732	257,492	869,151
120	1923		450		Add new article	To authorize the enactment of laws encouraging and promoting forestation and reforestation of lands and providing for special taxation thereof.	R	428,407	143,977	869,151
121	1923		451	Add 17		To permit the state to engage in fire prevention work, including compulsory clearing and improvement of wild lands (public or private) and assessment against such lands of the value of all benefits conferred and payment of damages so sustained in excess of such benefits.	A	460,965	143,518	869,151
122	1925		427	Add 18		To authorize enactment of laws encouraging and promoting forestation and reforestation of lands.	A	383,003	127,592	722,781
123	1925		428	6	2	To fix the number of associate justices of the Supreme court at six.	R	331,964	148,784	722,781
124	1925		429	10	3	To authorize the legislature to prescribe and limit the liability of stockholders in corporation.	R	323,322	140,422	722,781
125	1927		444	10	3	To authorize the legislature to provide for, limit and otherwise regulate the liability of stockholders or members of corporations and cooperatives. Nothing in this section to repeal or affect liability of stockholders in banks or corporations organized for banking as provided in Sec. 13, Article 9.	R	506,065	223,725	1,070,274
126	1927		445	9	5	To authorize the state to place in and credit to the trunk highway fund two-thirds and to place in and credit to the state road and bridge fund one-third of the gasoline tax.	A	542,796	346,109	1,070,274
127	1929		429	10	3	To authorize the legislature to prescribe and limit the liability of stockholders in corporation	A	486,818	135,345	828,401
128	1929		430	6	2	To raise the number of associate supreme court justices to six.	A	428,013	130,833	828,401

New

New

New

New

New

P.B.

New

New

P.B.

New

P.B.

P.B.

14 R 8 A 6

No. of Amend. In Order of Proposal	Citation		Prov. of Const. to be Amended		Purpose of Amendment	Adopted or Rejected	Vote on Amendment		Total Vote at Election	
	Sess. Laws	Chap.	Art.	Sec.			Yes	No		
129	1929	431	8		To authorize the exchange of public lands of the state for lands of the United States	R	378,716	174,231	828,401	New
130	1931	417	8		To authorize the exchange of public lands of the state for lands of the United States.	R	433,913	258,257	1,054,203	P.B.
131	1931	418	16	3	Relating to taxation of motor vehicles of companies paying taxes under the gross earnings system of taxation.	A	537,292	227,634	1,054,203	New
132	1931	419	9	10	To authorize taxing of lands acquired by the state through operation of the system of rural credits and to the appropriation of money from the funds of the department of rural credits.	R	468,101	261,856	1,054,203	New
133	1931	420	9	1	To authorize tax on incomes and on franchises and privileges, including railroad companies; such taxes may be in lieu of other taxes on real or personal property.	R	420,052	409,924	1,054,203	New
134	1933	441	9	10	To authorize taxing of lands acquired by the state through operation of the system of rural credits and the appropriation of money from the funds of the department of rural credits.	R	496,017	215,623	1,064,332	P.B.
135	1933	442	9	1	Relating to the exemption from state taxation of all household goods and equipment of each household and all farm machinery and equipment of each farm.	A	630,125	181,126	1,064,332	New
136	1933	443	8		To authorize the exchange of public lands of the state for lands of the United States, and other privately owned lands.	R	468,617	216,760	1,064,332	P.B.
137	1933	444	9	1	Amendment construing academies, colleges, universities, and all seminaries of learning, for tax purposes, to mean the property actually used in instruction and housing of the students thereof.	R	472,374	247,166	1,064,332	New
138	1933	439	16	1	To authorize the legislature to add new routes to the "Trunk Highway system".	R	509,074	279,877	1,064,332	New
	1933 Extra Session				No amendments proposed.					
139	1935	393	8		To authorize the exchange of public lands of the state for lands of the United States and other privately owned lands.	R	448,917	397,106	1,164,268	P.B.
140	1935	394	9	1	To authorize the elimination of taxation on real and tangible property for state purposes.	R	355,588	543,847	1,164,268	New
	1935-36 Extra Session				No amendments proposed.					
	1936 Extra Session, Dec. 17-23				No constitutional amendments proposed.					

No. of Amend. In Or- der of Proposal	Citation		Prov. of Const. to be Amended		Purpose of Amendment	Adopted or Rejected	Vote on Amendment		Total Vote at Election		
	Sess.	Laws	Chap.	Art.			Sec.	Yes			No
141	1937		492	8		To authorize the exchange of public lands of the state for lands of the United States and/or privately owned lands.	A	609,046	259,007	1,144,926	} P.B.
142	1937		493	4	36	To change the requirements for the publication of proposed amendments to charters of cities and villages within the state.	R	488,370	260,152	1,144,926	
	1937 Extra Session May 24 - July 23					No amendments proposed.					
✓ 143	1939		447	4	36	To change the requirements for publication of proposed amendments to charters of cities and villages.	R	635,815	287,286	1,301,573	
144	1941		555	4	36	To change the requirements for publication of proposed amendments to home rule charters of cities and villages	A	459,868	144,842	818,182 (incl. 671 "war" ballots)	} P.B. New
145	1941		171	8	6	To authorize changing the requirements for investment or loan of the permanent school and permanent university funds.	A	415,012	190,563	818,182 (incl. 671 "war" ballots)	
146	1943		666	Add 19		To permit the state to construct, operate and to assist in constructing and operating airports and other air navigation facilities.	A	737,091	264,149	1,195,397	
	1944 Extra Session					No amendments proposed.					
	1945					No amendments proposed.					
147	1947		640	14	1	To permit the submission to the voters of two or more amendments without requiring that the voters shall vote for or against each separately.	R	319,667	621,523	✓ 1,257,804	
148	1947		641	14	2	To permit two-thirds of the members of each branch of the legislature to provide by law for the calling of a constitutional convention.	R	294,842	✓ 641,013		
149	1947		642	Add new article		To authorize the state to pay an adjusted compensation to persons who have served in the armed services of the United States in time of war.	A	664,703	✓ 420,518		
150	1947		639	9	5	To authorize the distribution of the gasoline tax on the basis of one-half for the Trunk Highway Fund and one-half for the state Road and Bridge Fund.	R	534,538	✓ 539,224		

* 35,801 more than needed

- 151 1949 643 9 1 To provide that 1% of the Occupation Tax on iron ore be used for a ten-year period to help pay for the veterans' bonus. A 594,092 290,870 1,067,967
- 152 1949 746 4 32b-(repealed) R 367,013 465,239 "
- 8 2 To provide that 75% of proceeds from use, sale or other disposition of state trust lands (less administrative costs) go to four established permanent trust funds; that 25% go to a new fifth fund, a forestry revolving fund.
- 153 1949 747 9 5 To authorize the distribution of the gasoline tax on the basis of 50% for the Trunk Highway Fund, 44% for the Road and Bridge Fund, and 6% for the three first-class cities. R 420,530 456,346 1,100,240
- 154 1951 8 6 To allow local governments to borrow larger amounts of the permanent trust funds of the state. R 604,384 500,490 1,460,326
- 155 1951 14 ^{add} 3 To provide for submission of a revised the constitution to the people with ratification effected by three-fifths vote. R 656,618 424,492
- 156 1951 7 1 To provide for equal voting rights for all Minnesota citizens. R 716,670 371,508
- 157 1951 6 7 To give the legislature the power to determine qualifications of probate judges, and establish and extend the probate court duties by a 2/3 vote. R 646,608 443,005
- 158 1951 16 3 To authorize the distribution of the ^{motor vehicle} tax on the basis of 65% for the Trunk Highway Fund, 44% for the counties and 10% for cities, villages and boroughs. R 580,316 704,336

159	1953	759	6	7	To give the legislature the power to determine qualifications of probate judges, and to establish and extend the probate court duties by a 2/3 vote.	A	610,138	303,838	1,168,101
160	1953	760	10	3	To eliminate liability provision relating to stockholders in a banking or trust corporation or association and vest in the legislature the power to regulate stockholders liability in all kinds of corporations.	A	624,811	290,039	
161	1953	761	14	3	To provide for submission of a revised constitution <u>to the people with ratification a 2/3 vote required for</u>	A	638,818	266,434	
162	1953	762	5	4	To eliminate the "short term" between the general election and the first Monday in January following the next general election.	A	636,237	282,212	

1955	3 Amend -	# 1 judicial system -	A
		# 2 prob. highway -	A
		# 3 one tax & school -	A
1957	5 Amend.	# 1 home rule	A
		# 2 4 yr term gov.	A
		# 3 legis term for all	R
1959	4 Amend -	# 1 extend leg sess.	D
		# 2 reapportionment	D
		# 3 contin of govt	A
		# 4 voting rights	A

4 A 4

figures from Legislative Manuals 1951 - . Purpose from League materials (should be checked with authority before using)

September 28, 1948

Senator Archie H. Miller
Hopkins
Minnesota

Dear Senator Miller:

Thank you for your information on the proposed Gasoline Tax amendment to the State Constitution. It was most helpful.

A copy of the broadside we are distributing on all 4 Constitutional amendments to be voted on November 2nd is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Enc.

Mrs. Hiram Livingston
Legislative Chairman

ARCHIE H. MILLER
SENATOR 36TH DISTRICT
HOPKINS, MINN.



State of Minnesota
SENATE CHAMBER

CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON MOTOR VEHICLES
AND MOTOR TAX LAWS
AND
COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

At the present rate of gasoline consumption, each 1¢ of tax brings approximately \$6,000,000 in revenue. The present 4¢ tax yields about \$24,000,000. Of this amount the state Highway fund gets \$16,000,000 + counties \$8,000,000. If the amendment is adopted, the state and counties would each receive \$12,000,000 - from a 4¢ tax - This would be a loss to the state Highway fund of \$4,000,000 - The counties would gain this amount - If the amendment was adopted and the gas tax raised from 4 to 5 cents the highway fund & the counties would each get \$15,000,000 - This is \$7,000,000 more than the counties now get - but \$1,000,000 less for state. So it would mean a still higher rise in gas tax to even it up to present fund.

The proposed increase in road user taxes will not provide sufficient revenue to carry out the 10 year construction program considered necessary to make the state & county road system reasonably adequate to traffic. (This includes the proposed changes in motor vehicle tax rates).

Hope this information is of
some value to you -

Miller

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA
84 SOUTH TENTH STREET, ROOM 417
MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINNESOTA

October 19, 1948

Dear President:

Many of you have asked why the League of Women Voters of Minnesota is supporting Amendment 2 to the State Constitution to be voted on November 2nd. The decision of the Board of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota to support this amendment, passage of which would eliminate from Article XIV, Section 1, of the Constitution as it now reads the following words:

"If 2 or more alterations or amendments shall be submitted at the same time, it shall be so regulated that the voters shall vote for or against each separately"

is based on the Current Agenda item voted by the State Convention last May which reads:

"The League will work for a new State Constitution or for Constitutional Revision in the interest of greater efficiency and economy in government."

If we favor any change whatever in our present antiquated Constitution, we must support passage of Amendment 2, since its passage will materially speed the process of constitutional modernization. The purpose of Amendment 2 is to permit the voters to accept several minor alterations, such as words and phrases for clarification, or two or more related changes, for example those provisions concerned with the exemption and classification of property for taxation, on one ballot. At present every change, however unimportant, must be presented and voted upon separately. A method so slow and detailed is almost an insurmountable obstacle to the revision of a constitution as old as Minnesota's.

The chief safeguard against grouping of desirable and undesirable amendments is the voter. He elects the legislators who propose the amendments, then votes on the amendments which the legislature by majority vote has accepted. A legislator who valued his political reputation would not allow an amendment opposed to the public welfare to be placed on the ballot with one drafted in the public interest. It is not mandatory that more than one amendment appear on a ballot, merely permissible.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot in the following form:

SECOND	
VOTING ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS	
YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
SHALL THE CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE XIV, SECTION 1, BE AMENDED SO THAT TWO OR MORE ALTERATIONS OR AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION MAY BE SUBMITTED AT ONE TIME WITHOUT REQUIRING THAT THE VOTERS SHALL VOTE FOR OR AGAINST EACH SEPARATELY?	

Sincerely, *Malcolm Hargraves*

Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves
President

MAKE A NOTE - BE SURE TO VOTE

EVERYBODY'S IDEAS

Those 1

League Supports Amendment 2

To the Editor: The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is supporting Amendment 2 to the state constitution to be voted on Nov. 2. This amendment would eliminate from Article XIV, Section 1, of the constitution the following words:

"If two or more alterations or amendments shall be submitted at the same time, it shall be so regulated that the voters shall vote for or against each separately."

If we favor any change whatever in our present antiquated constitution, we must support passage of Amendment 2, since its passage will materially speed the process of constitutional modernization. The purpose of Amendment 2 is to permit the voters to accept several minor alterations, such as words and phrases for clarification, or two or more related changes on one ballot. At present every change, however unimportant, must be presented and voted upon separately. A method so slow and detailed is almost an insurmountable obstacle to the revision of a constitution as old as Minnesota's.

Rochester, Minn. —Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves,
President.

24 would have helped for
the Editor to quote the
entire letter. This
reply was, as you saw,
anonymous. I have been
called worse than crackpot
myself.

Now, Mrs. Hargraves why do you make a laughing stock out of yourself? The proposal does no such thing as you state, that is, you have not stated the purpose at all. Far from referring to "minor" changes it would enable major changes. Attached is an explanation of the amendment as it appears on the ballot. Look it over and see if you can decipher any "minor" changes in what can be proposed?

—YES	<p>SECOND—</p> <p>VOTING ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS</p> <p>Shall the constitution, Article XIV, Section 1, be amended so that two or more alterations or amendments to the constitution may be submitted at one time without requiring that the voters shall vote for or against each separately?</p>
—NO	

This is one of the most dangerous propositions that crack pots have put forward in a long time. Do you see anything in the proposal as stated in the legal explanation that appears on the ballot that would indicate the changes proposed are "minor"? The two or "more" amendments that would be authorized, could re-write the whole constitution and with or little thought as to what the changes would really mean. You evidently before rushing into print did not pay attention to that word "more". The endorsement of this ridiculous proposal by the League of Women Voters merely accents again the popular understanding that the League is a crack pot group/

Yours Truly

Minneapolis, Minn
Oct 26 1948

NOV 9 1948

*Const
Amendments
11-2-48*

October 27, 1948

The Editor
The St. Paul Pioneer Press
55 E. Fourth Street
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Sir:

Many people have asked why the League of Women Voters of Minnesota is supporting Amendment 2 to the State Constitution to be voted on November 2nd. The decision of the Board of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota to support this amendment, passage of which would eliminate from Article XIV, Section 1, of the Constitution as it now reads the following words:

"If 2 or more alterations or amendments shall be submitted at the same time, it shall be so regulated that the voters shall vote for or against each separately"

is based on the Current Agenda item voted by the State Convention last May which reads:

"The League will work for a new State Constitution or for Constitutional Revision in the interest of greater efficiency and economy in government."

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The chief safeguard against grouping of desirable and undesirable amendments is the voter. He elects the legislators who propose the amendments, then votes on the amendments which the legislature by majority vote has accepted. A legislator who valued his political reputation would not allow an amendment opposed to the public welfare to be placed on the ballot with one drafted in the public interest. It is not mandatory that more than one amendment appear on a ballot, merely permissible.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves
President

MH:s

Duluth News Tribune
Duluth
Minnesota

October 27, 1948

Attention of Mr. Victor F. Ridder

Dear Sir:

Many people have asked why the League of Women Voters of Minnesota is supporting Amendment 2 to the State Constitution to be voted on November 2nd. The decision of the Board of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota to support this amendment, passage of which would eliminate from Article XIV, Section 1, of the Constitution as it now reads the following words:

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves
President

MH:s

October 27, 1948

The Editor
The Minneapolis Star
427 Sixth Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Sir:

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves
President

MH:s

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA
84 SOUTH TENTH STREET, ROOM 417
MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINNESOTA

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

October 19, 1948

Dear President:

people
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The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot in the following form:

SECOND	
VOTING ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS	
YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

SHALL THE CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE XIV, SECTION 1, BE AMENDED SO THAT TWO OR MORE ALTERATIONS OR AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION MAY BE SUBMITTED AT ONE TIME WITHOUT REQUIRING THAT THE VOTERS SHALL VOTE FOR OR AGAINST EACH SEPARATELY?

Sincerely,

Malcolm Hargraves
Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves
President

MAKE A NOTE - BE SURE TO VOTE

December 1, 1948

Mr. Harry W. Davis
305 Lonsdale Building
Duluth 2, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Davis:

Thank you for your letter of November 8 regarding proposed Amendment No. 3 which was presented to the voters of Minnesota on November 2, 1948. The interest which your letter evidenced in the work of our organization is indeed gratifying and we welcome the comments which you made on the informational sheet, or "broadside" on the proposed amendments which was prepared and distributed by the League of Women Voters of Minneapolis on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota.

As you no doubt realize, one of the primary objects of the League is education for citizenship through the dissemination of factual information in accordance with the duly adopted programs of its national, state and local parts. The piece to which you referred was carefully prepared by a committee of local and state League members acting upon the considered advice and with the consultation of recognized authorities in the fields of interest concerned with the proposals.

The particular question you raised as to the submission of a new Constitution to the voters of the State by a Constitutional Convention is indeed an interesting one. The fact that confusion has arisen over this matter is but another evidence of the faulty draftsmanship on the part of the framers of our State Constitution and points up the need for study and revision of that document. The opinion you expressed that such a submission would be mandatory under present constitutional provisions was shared by many at the outset of study of the proposal. In this connection may I call your attention to the article entitled "A New Constitution", by Mr. Wm. B. Henderson, Revisor of Statutes for the State of Minnesota, which appeared in the March, 1948 issue of The Bench and Bar of Minnesota, the official organ of the Minnesota State Bar Association, in which Mr. Henderson expressed, in effect, a like opinion. However, by letter of correction dated April 5, 1948, which appeared in the April, 1948 issue of the same journal, Mr. Henderson called attention to Section 2 of Article XIII of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota and to the fact that it contains no provision requiring a vote of the people to ratify the work of the Constitutional Convention should such a Convention be called to revise our present Constitution. Mr. Henderson also called attention to the fact that the usual procedure is for the Constitutional Convention to provide, in a schedule, for its coming into effect upon ratification. And, it would indeed be unwise for any Constitutional Convention to draft a new document to become effective without a submission to the people of the State for ratification. The "broadside" referred to was prepared on

the basis of such interpretation and was reviewed in Mr. Henderson's office before publication although that office is, of course, in no way responsible for the statement itself.

We are indeed grateful for this opportunity to clarify our position in the matter, and hope that we may look forward to the continuing interest of yourself and your organization in our efforts to promote better government at all levels.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Hiram Livingston
Chairman, State Government

11-9-48

LAW OFFICES OF
HARRY W. DAVIS
305 LONSDALE BUILDING
DULUTH 2, MINN.

November 8, 1948

League of Women Voters of Minneapolis
84 South Tenth Street, Room 407
Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

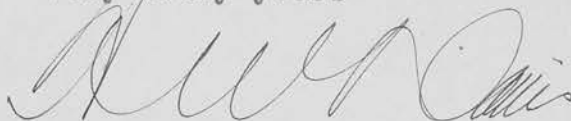
I was chairman of the sub-committee of the Chamber of Commerce of Duluth which made a report on the four proposed amendments to the Constitution of the State of Minnesota. Our attention was called to the leaflet which was issued by your organization covering these amendments and with regard to amendment number 3, your paragraph number 4 under the same would be interpreted to mean that a constitutional convention would not have to be submitted for approval at a general or special election.

Some question was raised about this statement and in looking up the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, it seems to me that this is mandatory and that no constitutional convention could put a new constitution in force without the same being submitted at an election.

While evidently this amendment was defeated, it would be well to have this straightened out for the future and I would suggest that you advise me what interpretation was given to your organization with regard to this matter and what your statement in this leaflet was meant to express.

I am interested in general in the work of your organization because my wife has been active in the local chapter for a long time and is a past president.

Very truly yours



H. W. DAVIS

HWD/bn

MINNESOTA TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

A Federation of County Taxpayers Associations
FAWKES BLDG. — 1645 HENNEPIN AVE.
MINNEAPOLIS 3, MINNESOTA
Lincoln 2145

St. Paul Headquarters
St. Paul Association of Commerce
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Member:

URGENT!

Enclosed is the new booklet, just off the press, designed for quantity distribution, to acquaint voters with the responsibilities concerned in passing a State Veterans Bonus.

Because this is a most vital matter for our State which may end in a greatly increased State debt, increased taxes and new taxes, we feel that every voter in the State should realize the possible complications before voting on this proposal.

It has been attempted to place pro and con arguments in this booklet. It is a "boil down" of voluminous information available on this matter, both in Minnesota and from other states.

It is hoped that at least 200,000 of these booklets will be placed in the hands of Minnesota voters through the Macs, Minnesota Trade Associations, Industry, and our own affiliates throughout the State, and others. This distribution will be backed by weekly news releases to both the urban and rural press.

We shall hope for your aid on this urgent job to be done before the November election.

Yours sincerely,

Norman A. Bergen

Secy.-Treas.

Enc-2

ARGUMENTS AGAINST A BONUS

The following were some of the arguments given the legislature against the bonus:

(1) A bonus, if one is necessary, is the sole responsibility of the Federal government which called these men into military service. In addition, all veterans throughout the country would be treated on a uniform basis and the impact of the tax burden would be spread throughout all states of the Union.

(2) The Federal government through the G.I. Bill of Rights and other legislation has offered an unusual, liberal and complete program for adjusting the soldier to civilian life.

(3) The financial cost is so great that the state would be forced to assume an unbearable debt. New taxes will be required when the state is already over-burdened with a tax load that is handicapping development in the state.

(4) A bonus of \$200 or \$300 is too small to be of any assistance in adjusting a soldier to civilian life.

(5) A bonus granted now will be of no assistance in adjusting a soldier to civilian life since that transition period is over. Federal payment of mustering out compensation and unemployment compensation took care of this adjustment.

(6) There are much better ways of showing appreciation for the services of our soldiers, such as loans for homes, for subsidized veterans' housing, for starting a business, educational scholarships, medical care, hospitalization, etc. An appropriation for veterans' housing would meet the most serious need facing the veteran today. California, New Jersey, Louisiana, New York and Texas have adopted this method of aiding veterans.

(7) Veterans, as citizens, must pay whatever taxes are levied to finance the bond issue. Therefore, they are certain to pay a sizable portion of their own bonus.

(8) Civilian wages were controlled to a large extent for the war period so there is little need for so-called "adjusted compensation." In addition, soldiers received far higher compensation in World War II than in World War I.

(9) The Federal G.I. Bill of Rights plus the numerous special veterans services set up by the state government makes a bonus unnecessary since all veterans in need of special assistance are well taken care of.

(10) Less than half the states granted a bonus for World War I and even a smaller number have authorized a bonus for this war, thus showing that a bonus is not necessarily the responsibility of a state government.

ARGUMENTS FOR A BONUS

The arguments presented for a bonus are listed below. The following were the most common though not all the arguments presented to the Minnesota legislature a year ago:

(1) A bonus is a tangible token of the heartfelt gratitude of the people of Minnesota for the difficult, arduous and dangerous service which resulted in a glorious victory.

(2) From time immemorial countries have given bonuses or gratuities of one type or another for their fighting men so that there is plenty of precedent for bonus legislation.

(3) Minnesota set for itself the precedent for a state bonus after World War I.

(4) There is need of an adjustment in compensation to veterans so that they will receive like treatment in wages with their fellows who served in war industries. It is neither a pension nor charity.

(5) The payment of three or four hundred dollars to each veteran is not large and well within the ability of the state to finance over a period of ten to twenty years.

(6) The outstanding debt of the state has been reduced to the lowest point in fifteen years so that the state treasury is in a sound fiscal condition thus enabling the state to handle a bonus bond issue at this time.

(7) A veteran may have to pay through taxation for a portion of his own bonus but the amount will be insignificant if the proper type of taxes are selected.

(8) A large majority of veterans will not receive any of the existing benefits for disabled or unfortunate veterans. A bonus is the only way this group can be compensated for their war sacrifices.

(9) Veterans need and are entitled to some financial assistance to readjust themselves to civilian life.

(10) Minnesota granted a bonus to World War I veterans and in all fairness veterans of this war should be treated as liberally.

THE PROPOSED VETERANS BONUS AMENDMENT

An Impartial Study of Proposed Constitutional Amendment for Veterans Bonus in Minnesota, to be Voted on in November Election, 1948.

WITH ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST

Analysis prepared by
MINNESOTA TAXPAYERS
ASSOCIATION

Minnesota citizens will vote on four proposed constitutional amendments at the coming November election.

Perhaps the most important of these is the proposal to authorize the state legislature to pass a state bonus bill for veterans of World War II.

While passage of the amendment would not in itself provide a bonus, a favorable vote by the electorate would remove all legal obstacles to a bonus, and the state legislature very likely would regard such action as a mandate to provide one.

Adoption or rejection of a bonus, therefore, will in fact be the responsibility of Minnesota voters.

In order to provide information upon which voters can make their own determination, an impartial presentation of facts, for and against a bonus, are given herewith.

This report is given as a public service, presenting both sides of the issue, to give veterans and others a picture of the tax situation and what might be expected in the future and make for more intelligent voting in the fall election.

FINANCING A BONUS

Whatever action the legislature might take in adopting a bonus would automatically bring to the fore the problem of financing the bonus.

This, in turn, brings up the questions: How much will a bonus cost the people of Minnesota? How will the taxes be raised to meet bond issues that undoubtedly will be spread over a period of years?

A statistical report comparing the proposed bonus for World War II Veterans as compared to that paid in Minnesota to World War I Veterans reveals that:

COST OF PROPOSED BONUS

There are four times as many veterans today as in World War I. They average much longer terms of military service. The cost of a World War II bonus will be much larger than that of the bonus for World War I. If financed by borrowing, the state debt will be increased by at least 150 per cent. Cost of the World War I bonus to Minnesota was only \$28,000,000. The same type of bonus for World War II is estimated at over \$200,000,000. Administrative costs will be considerably greater now than after World War I.

To finance such a bonus, its original payment, administrative costs, and interest, would probably require over \$30,000,000 a year for a ten-year period; and over \$15,000,000 a year for a 20-year period.

This money would have to be raised by taxes. Since real estate taxes now are at a high point in the state; since the Minnesota state income tax rate is one of the highest in the nation; since liquor taxes are now allocated to state and municipal purposes, since one-half of the iron ore occupational tax is dedicated by the state constitution to education, and the iron ore royalty tax is used by the state for financing various state services, while other major tax sources are earmarked for education, highways, and other state obligations, there appears to be

no other major tax source available except a general retail sales tax. This latter tax is perhaps the only productive source remaining, despite its apparent unpopularity.

BONUS IN OTHER STATES

A recent study dealing with cash bonuses for veterans of two wars as applied to other state governments reveals that:

1. Ten states have already authorized World War II bonuses, totaling \$1 billion, 600 million. Seven other states are considering World War II bonuses, totaling \$1 billion, 200 million.
2. Interest charges on money borrowed to pay the World War I bonuses of New Jersey and of South Dakota were more costly than the bonuses given.
3. Five states of the 20 which gave World War I bonuses are still paying interest on the bonds issued.
4. The Federal government will spend in the four-year period 1946-50 more than \$1,400 per World War II veteran. In the first four years following World War I the Federal government spent about \$400 per veteran.
5. Maine voters in a referendum, turned down a bonus, although the legislature there had approved a \$150 payment to veterans of World War II. The proposal was defeated by a vote of two to one in the state referendum.
6. No bonus has been presented to the legislatures of ten states.
7. Bonus bills failed to obtain favorable committee action in the legislatures of eighteen states.
8. In two states, bonus bills were approved in the House and defeated in the Senate.
9. No bonuses were voted in the southern states after World War I, and none have been voted for World War II.

10. A number of states which have not granted bonuses have instead provided other special services for veterans.

VETERANS WOULD PAY PART OF COST

Whether a bonus will be paid to Minnesota veterans of World War II is a decision to be made by the voters in November. Veterans, themselves, constitute a large proportion of the citizenship; therefore, veterans will pay in taxes a great part of their own bonus.

It is impossible to measure in dollars the heroic service given to the country by our veterans. Their unselfish sacrifices are appreciated by every citizen. The bonus, therefore, would be a token of appreciation. The small amount paid to veterans, however, could have little effect on their economic status. It would be a token gift.

DECISION UP TO VOTERS

Veterans and their families, as well as all other voters, will be required to decide for themselves: Whether voting a bonus will be in the long-time interest of the Veterans and of the State, keeping in mind that the affairs of the State and the financial obligations of the State will in the main be the responsibility of the veterans in a very few years.

Citizens and veterans should become familiar with all the facts before voting. After determining what is in the best interests of the veteran and of the state, each individual must then vote according to his own convictions.