

Issue 1

Generally speaking, every ballot issue in Arkansas initiated by the legislature is a bad idea and deserving of a no vote until proven otherwise. Typically, the first three ballot issues on your ballot in the general election will be legislature initiated, and often do exactly the opposite of what is claimed. This year is no exception.

Issue #1 this year is a response to the abuse of authority by Governor Asa Hutchinson during the response to Covid. Small businesses were shut down and fined to the benefit of large ones that were not, religious freedoms were denied, and unconstitutional mandates were issued. The legislature was unable to take full political advantage of the crisis because only the Governor can call a special session of the legislature, and he chose not to.

This proposed amendment would allow the legislature to call a special session for itself whenever it wants, greatly expanding the power of and potential for abuse by the legislature. The appropriate response to abusive government is never MORE government. There are already ways to remove and/or discipline a bad governor, our legislature chose not to do so. Giving that legislature more abusive power to match or exceed the abuse of power by the governor should be a non-starter. There is good reason why our legislature is not a full time one. We recommend voting "NO" on issue #1.