

# GET THE FACTS ABOUT AMENDMENT 1

Illinois voters will have the opportunity to vote on a historic change at the ballot box on Nov. 8, 2022. Similar to the progressive income tax amendment voters rejected in 2020, Amendment 1 is a constitutional amendment subject to voter approval that threatens new taxation. Proponents also refer to Amendment 1 as the "Workers' Rights Amendment."

VOTING **"YES"** ACCEPTS THE AMENDMENT

VOTING **"NO"** REJECTS THE AMENDMENT

## What does Amendment 1 say?

### SECTION 25. WORKERS' RIGHTS

(a) Employees shall have the fundamental right to organize and to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing for the purpose of negotiating wages, hours, and working conditions, and to protect their economic welfare and safety at work. No law shall be passed that interferes with, negates, or diminishes the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively over their wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment and work place safety, including any law or ordinance that prohibits the execution or application of agreements between employers and labor organizations that represent employees requiring membership in an organization as a condition of employment.

(b) The provisions of this Section are controlling over those of Section 6 of Article VII.

## What does this mean?

- Creates "fundamental right" to organize/bargain for all "employees"
- Allows bargaining over virtually anything
- Prohibits lawmakers from acting in taxpayers' best interest
- Bans right to work

## WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF AMENDMENT 1?

### Workers receive a "fundamental right" to collective bargaining

- All government workers would obtain a fundamental right to unionize – including elected officials and potentially prisoners
- The right would not apply to non-government workers because the federal government regulates private-sector unionization
- Bargaining rights would be expanded well beyond compensation, potentially including subjects ranging from social welfare to political activities

## **Amendment 1 guarantees a \$2,100 property tax hike**

- The amendment would expand bargaining to include broad new subjects, making this a tax increase in disguise as taxpayers are forced to fund a wide range of new demands
- Based on a conservative estimate, property taxes for an average household would go up \$2,149 during the next four years. The increase could turn out to be significantly higher, but just how high is hard to predict because no other state has such extreme labor laws
- The amendment would prohibit lawmakers, as representatives of the people, from enacting reforms that could help cut costs, driving up the need for higher taxes

## **Amendment 1 would solidify Illinois' reputation as one of the worst states in the nation for businesses**

- Businesses leaving the state have cited Illinois' poor business climate and high taxes. Illinois saw the second largest decline in business tax climate ranking in the nation since 2017, according to the Tax Foundation's Business Tax Climate Index
- The state would be prohibited from enacting pro-business laws that attract new companies
- The current exodus of jobs would get worse and the economy would suffer

## **Amendment 1 would allow union leaders to override more than 350 existing Illinois laws**

- Government union contracts would be elevated to the level of the state constitution
- Contract provisions would void contradictory state and local laws
- At least 38 provisions in the School Code and 11 provisions in the Children and Family Services Act could be contradicted through contracts under Amendment 1, including measures to protect children's safety

## **Has this been tried anywhere else?**

- No state constitution provides a "fundamental right" to unionize and bargain
- No state constitution allows government union contracts to override state law
- No state constitution prohibits lawmakers from enacting reforms
- A 2012 attempt to place a similar amendment into the Michigan constitution failed 57%-42%

### **Who supports Amendment 1?**

- AFSCME Council 31
- Chicago Teachers Union
- Illinois AFL-CIO
- Illinois Federation of Teachers
- Illinois Pipe Trades Association
- SEIU Healthcare Illinois Indiana
- Teamsters Joint Council 25

### **Who opposes Amendment 1?**

- Associated Builders & Contractors
- Illinois Association of School Boards
- Illinois Chamber of Commerce
- Illinois Manufacturers' Association
- Illinois Municipal League
- National Federation of Independent Business
- Technology & Manufacturing Association