

**From:** [MICHAEL COONS](#)  
**To:** [Senate State Affairs](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Cathy Tilton](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose SJR 2  
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I strongly oppose SJR 2.

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to lower the veto override threshold for budget, revenue, and appropriation bills from three-fourths (45 out of 60 legislators) to two-thirds (40 votes). It would make overriding a governor's line-item veto on spending easier for all bills—contrary to what our state's founders wisely established.

What's striking is how rarely a Democratic governor has used the line-item veto to cut spending. When Democrats control the governorship or legislature, spending tends to balloon—out-of-control budgets that align with big-government priorities. But when Republicans lead, we cut spending to live up to our conservative values: smaller government, fiscal responsibility, and protecting taxpayers.

The current three-fourths threshold makes overrides difficult, even in a narrowly divided legislature—and that's a good thing. It protects against unchecked spending and gives the governor a real tool to enforce restraint. Even in this legislature's makeup, achieving two-thirds would be easier, weakening that safeguard.

For true budget or revenue items, the higher three-fourths bar has historically been tough to clear, as intended. Lowering it now would tilt the balance toward the legislature and away from executive checks on excessive spending.

As a strong conservative, I want that three-fourths protection to remain the standard—no matter who sits in the governor's office. Even if a Democrat is elected, I want the higher threshold to block veto overrides on funding for core conservative priorities: public safety, infrastructure like roads, and limited government programs.

SJR 2 erodes the founders' design for balanced power and makes it easier to override vetoes that curb wasteful spending.

Do not pass SJR 2 out of committee.

