

BALLOT MEASURE NO. 4

Constitutional Amendment

AMENDMENT LIMITING INCREASES IN APPROPRIATIONS

(Free Conference Committee Substitute for Senate Joint Resolution No. 4)

SUMMARY

(As it will appear on the November 2, 1982 General Election Ballot)

This amendment adds a new section to article IX of the Alaska Constitution. The section limits appropriations for a fiscal year to \$2.5 billion, adjusted annually for changes in population and inflation since 1981. At least one-third of the limitation amount is reserved for appropriations for capital projects and state loan programs. The remainder (up to two-thirds) may be spent for governmental operations. Appropriations to the Alaska Permanent Fund and appropriations or bond authorizations for capital projects may exceed this limit if they are not vetoed by the governor and are approved by the voters. The limit could also be exceeded to meet a state of disaster declared by the governor. The limit would not apply to appropriations for permanent fund dividends, general obligation bond payments, appropriations from revenue bond proceeds, or for costs associated with relocation of the capital (if Ballot Measure No. 8 is passed). The amendment provides for reconsideration of the limit by the voters at the 1986 General Election.

BALLOT FORM:

A vote "FOR" adopts the amendment.

A vote "AGAINST" rejects the amendment.

FOR ☐

AGAINST ☐

VOTE CAST BY MEMBERS OF 12TH STATE LEGISLATURE ON FINAL PASSAGE

Senate	(20 members):	Yeas <u>15</u>	Nays <u>4</u>	Absent or Not Voting <u>1</u>
House	(40 members):	Yeas <u>27</u>	Nays <u>13</u>	Absent or Not Voting <u>0</u>

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY SUMMARY

(As required by law)

The proposed amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska would impose a limit on the amount of money that could be appropriated from the state treasury for a state fiscal year. The limit for a fiscal year would be \$2,500,000,000 plus an amount representing cumulative changes in population and inflation from July 1, 1981, to the fiscal year in question. Within the limit on appropriations, one-third of the amount available to be appropriated would be reserved for capital projects and loan appropriations.

The following appropriations would be exempt from the limit on appropriations:

1. an appropriation for Alaska permanent fund dividends;
2. an appropriation of revenue bond proceeds;
3. an appropriation to pay principal and interest on state general obligation bonds;
4. an appropriation of money received from non-state sources in trust for specific purposes;
5. an appropriation to the Alaska Permanent Fund if the appropriation bill is approved by the governor, becomes law without the signature of the governor, or is passed by a three-fourths vote of the membership of the legislature over the veto of the governor; and is approved by the voters as prescribed by law;
6. an appropriation for capital projects if the appropriations bill is confined to projects of the same type; is approved by the governor, becomes law without the signature of the governor, or is passed by a three-fourths vote of the membership of the legislature over the veto of the governor; and is approved by the voters as prescribed by law after the voters are informed of the cost of operations and maintenance of the proposed projects; and
7. an appropriation to meet a state of disaster declared by the governor, as prescribed by law.

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STATEMENT IN FAVOR OF BALLOT MEASURE NO. 4

Ballot Measure No. 4 deserves the support of all Alaskans. It will prevent the continuation of excessive state spending which has been the pattern in recent years. This spending spree is the result of more projects and more programs. Inflation and population growth have not played a major role.

For example, in 1960, the state budget was \$41 million, the population was 226,000, and the Consumer Price Index 103. In 1980, state spending was \$1.14 billion, the population 400,000, and the Consumer Price Index stood at 290. In Fiscal Year 1982, state spending (not including appropriations to the Permanent Fund), was \$3.84 billion. Population and Consumer Price Index figures have not been published for 1982, but if it is assumed that during the 1980-82 period state population increased to 440,000 and the Consumer Price Index rose to about 350, then between 1960 and 1982, state population increased 94% while the Consumer Price Index increased by 239%. But state spending increased by an astounding 9,265% during this same period.

The passage of Ballot Measure No. 4 will halt that sort of runaway government growth by providing a constitutional limit on most items of state spending. The limit is set at \$2.5 billion each year, adjusted for the

changes in population and inflation. At least one-third of the expenditures must be for capital projects and loans, thus, the day-to-day operating budget of the State is held to two-thirds of the limit, or a maximum of \$1.66 billion, plus adjustments. Provisions are made for additional capital expenditures which are approved by the people and for other expenditures in the event of a disaster declared by the governor.

Although it is true that the Fiscal Year 1983 budget is less than Ballot Measure No. 4 would permit, this relatively austere budget was passed during a time of rapidly falling revenue projections. Had this restraint not been present, there is little reason to believe that the Legislature would have deviated from its past practices of excessive spending.

While Ballot Measure No. 4 is not perfect and does not provide for all the limitations one might want, nevertheless, it is the only constitutional spending limit available. Only by voting to accept this ballot measure can the people of Alaska show their determination to restrain spending by the Legislature and begin the road back to state fiscal responsibility.

—Kent Edwards, President
Common Sense for Alaska, Inc.

STATEMENT AGAINST BALLOT MEASURE NO. 4

Only the first two sentences of this measure apply to a spending limitation; the remainder list seven exceptions for spending above the limit, only two of which make much sense: 1) putting money in the Permanent Fund; and 2) spending to clean up a disaster. The remaining five exceptions are loopholes that give legislators and the governor the ability to continue excessive spending on: A) bond authorizations for capital projects; B) issuance of Permanent Fund dividends; C) general obligation bond payments; D) appropriations from revenue bond proceeds; and E) costs of the Capital Move, if passed. All five of these expenditures can be over the spending limit.

But let's back up to those first two sentences. The biggest abuses in government spending are in the area of "capital expenditures," otherwise called "pork". After each capital project is built, it carries operating and maintenance costs. Whatever of the one-third in the limit we spend for capital projects, we are automatically adding to the cost of doing the state's business (the other two-thirds). We cannot continually add to the state's responsibilities and expect the operating two-thirds of the budget to be covered by an increase in population and inflation. We will quickly reach the point where each project built will necessitate cuts in social or educational programs, or will cause a cut in maintenance, leaving our capital projects to decay.

As if this weren't bad enough, let's add in loophole "A", bond authorizations for capital projects. If one-third of the usable revenues aren't enough for desired

and needed capital projects, the Legislature can issue an authorization for the State to sell bonds to build the project. If the governor does not veto the authorization, you will be asked to approve the sale of bonds at a general election. When we sell bonds to get money for projects, we later pay back the buyers—with interest. In loophole "C" we don't even have to count that payback against the spending limit!

Nothing in this measure lays out which projects will be included in the one-third capital limit and which will be put before the voters. As a legislator, I would guess that pet projects of key legislators will be in the budget so they won't be as easily seen by the public. Projects of statewide importance—jails and schools—will be put on the ballot. Each approved project will further impact the operating budget causing a deeper cut in programs and operations.

In addition, there is no provision for declining revenues. This "spending limit" is before you under the assumption we will have increasing revenues each year. That is not likely. As revenues decline, we would be foolish to continue to allocate one-third of our available revenues for building and loans when we will have continually less revenue for operations. In such a case, the only way to maintain government operations would be to increase personal taxes and return to a personal income tax.

We need a spending limitation, but this isn't it.

—Sally Smith, Representative
Alaska State Legislature

Arguments printed on this page are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any official agency.

BALLOT MEASURE NO. 4 (Cont.)

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY SUMMARY (cont.)

The ballot measure also includes three transitional measures associated with the appropriations limit. If the voters approve both the appropriations limit and the cost of providing for relocation of the capital, additional voter approval of appropriations for relocation of the capital would not be required under the appropriations limit. If the appropriation limit is adopted the same proposition must be placed on the 1986 ballot for a second vote and if it is rejected in 1986 the appropriation limit would be repealed. The appropriation limit would apply to appropriations made for the state fiscal years beginning July 1, 1981, and thereafter.

FULL TEXT OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

SECTION 16. APPROPRIATION LIMIT. Except for appropriations for Alaska permanent fund dividends, appropriations of revenue bond proceeds, appropriations required to pay the principal and interest on general obligation bonds, and appropriations of money received from a non-State source in trust for a specific purpose, including revenues of a public enterprise or public corporation of the State that issues revenue bonds, appropriations from the treasury made for a fiscal year shall not exceed \$2,500,000,000 by more than the cumulative change, derived from federal indices as prescribed by law, in population and inflation since July 1, 1981. Within this limit, at least one-third shall be reserved for capital projects and loan appropriations. The legislature may exceed this limit in bills for appropriations to the Alaska permanent fund and in bills for appropriations for capital projects, whether of bond proceeds or otherwise, if each bill is approved by the governor, or passed by affirmative vote of three-fourths of the membership of the legislature over a veto or item veto, or becomes law without a signature, and is also approved by the voters as prescribed by law. Each bill for appropriations for capital projects in excess of the limit shall be confined to capital projects of the same type, and the voters shall, as provided by law, be informed of the cost of operations and maintenance of the capital projects. No other appropriation in excess of this limit may be made except to meet a state of disaster declared by the governor as prescribed by law. The governor shall cause any unexpended and unappropriated balance to be invested so as to yield competitive market rates to the treasury.

SECTION 26. APPROPRIATIONS FOR RELOCATION OF THE CAPITAL. If a majority of those voting on the question at the general election in 1982 approve the ballot proposition for the total cost to the State of providing for relocation of the capital, no additional voter approval of appropriations for that purpose within the cost approved by the voters is required under the 1982 amendment limiting increases in appropriations (art. IX, sec. 16).

SECTION 27. RECONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT LIMITING INCREASES IN APPROPRIATIONS. If the 1982 amendment limiting appropriation increases (art. IX, sec. 16) is adopted, the lieutenant governor shall cause the ballot title and proposition for the amendment to be placed on the ballot again at the general election in 1986. If the majority of those voting on the proposition in 1986 rejects the amendment, it shall be repealed.

SECTION 28. APPLICATION OF AMENDMENT. The 1982 amendment limiting appropriation increases (art. IX, sec. 16) applies to appropriations made for fiscal year 1984 and thereafter.

BALLOT MEASURE NO. 1

Reconsideration of Amendment Limiting Increase in Appropriations

BALLOT LANGUAGE

(As it will appear on the November 4, 1986, General Election Ballot)

In 1982 the voters adopted an amendment to the Alaska Constitution which limits the amount of money that the legislature may appropriate. The 1982 amendment provided for reconsideration of the limit by the voters at this general election. Article IX, sec. 16, of the Alaska Constitution limits appropriations for a fiscal year to \$2.5 billion, adjusted annually for changes in population and inflation since 1981. At least one-third of the limitation amount is reserved for appropriations for capital projects and state loan programs. The remainder (up to two-thirds) may be spent for governmental operations. Appropriations to the Alaska Permanent Fund and appropriations or bond authorizations for capital projects may exceed this limit if they are not vetoed by the governor and are approved by the voters. The limit could also be exceeded to meet a state of disaster declared by the governor. The limit would not apply to appropriations for permanent fund dividends, general obligation bond payments, or for appropriations from revenue bond proceeds.

A vote "FOR" retains the appropriation limit.

FOR ☐

A vote "AGAINST" repeals the appropriation limit.

AGAINST ☐

VOTES CAST BY MEMBERS OF THE 12TH ALASKA LEGISLATURE ON FINAL PASSAGE

House:	Yeas	27
	Nays	13
	Absent or Not Voting	0
Senate:	Yeas	15
	Nays	4
	Absent or Not Voting	1

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY SUMMARY

Constitutional Amendment
(2d FCCSSJR 4; Leg. Res. 1, FSSLA 1981)

This proposition will continue the effect of the appropriations limit under the Constitution of the State of Alaska that was approved November 2, 1982. If this proposition is rejected the appropriation limit is repealed.

Under this proposition the limit for a fiscal year would continue to be \$2,500,000,000 plus an amount representing cumulative changes in population and inflation from July 1, 1981, to the fiscal year in question. Within the limit on appropriations one-third of the amount available to be appropriated would continue to be reserved for capital projects and loan appropriations.

The following appropriations would continue to be exempt from the limit on appropriations:

1. an appropriation for Alaska permanent fund dividends;
2. an appropriation of revenue bond proceeds;
3. an appropriation to pay principal and interest on state general obligation bonds;
4. an appropriation of money received from non-state sources in trust for specific purposes;
5. an appropriation to the Alaska permanent fund if the appropriation bill is approved by the governor, becomes law without the signature of the governor, or is passed by a three-fourths vote of the membership of the legislature over the veto of the governor; and is approved by the voters as prescribed by law;
6. an appropriation for capital projects if the appropriations bill is confined to projects of the same type; is approved by the governor, becomes law without the signature of the governor, or is passed by a three-fourths vote of the membership of the legislature over the veto of the governor; and is approved by the voters as prescribed by law after the voters are informed of the cost of operations and maintenance of the proposed projects; and
7. an appropriation to meet a state of disaster declared by the governor, as prescribed by law.

BALLOT MEASURE NO. 1

FULL TEXT OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

SECTION 16. APPROPRIATION LIMIT. Except for appropriations for Alaska permanent fund dividends, appropriations of revenue bond proceeds, appropriations required to pay the principal and interest on general obligation bonds, and appropriations of money received from a non-State source in trust for a specific purpose, including revenues of a public enterprise or public corporation of the State that issues revenue bonds, appropriations from the treasury made for a fiscal year shall not exceed \$2,500,000,000 by more than the cumulative change, derived from federal indices as prescribed by law, in population and inflation since July 1, 1981. Within this limit, at least one-third shall be reserved for capital projects and loan appropriations. The legislature may exceed this limit in bills for appropriations to the Alaska permanent fund and in bills for appropriations for capital projects, whether of bond proceeds or otherwise, if each bill is approved by the governor, or passed by affirmative vote of three-fourths of the membership of the legislature over a veto or item veto, or becomes law without a signature, and is also approved by the voters as prescribed by law. Each bill for appropriations for capital projects in excess of the limit shall be confined to capital projects of the same type, and the voters shall, as provided by law, be informed of the cost of operations and maintenance of the capital projects. No other appropriation in excess of this limit may be made except to meet a state of disaster declared by the governor as prescribed by law. The governor shall cause any unexpended and unappropriated balance to be invested so as to yield competitive market rates to the treasury.

SECTION 26. APPROPRIATIONS FOR RELOCATION OF THE CAPITAL. If a majority of those voting on the question at the general election in 1982 approve the ballot proposition for the total cost to the State of providing for relocation of the capital, no additional voter approval of appropriations for that purpose within the cost approved by the voters is required under the 1982 amendment limiting increases in appropriations. (art. IX, sec. 16).

SECTION 27. RECONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT LIMITING INCREASES IN APPROPRIATIONS. If the 1982 amendment limiting appropriation increases (art. IX, sec. 16) is adopted, the lieutenant governor shall cause the ballot title and proposition for the amendment to be placed on the ballot again at the general election in 1986. If the majority of those voting on the proposition in 1986 rejects the amendment, it shall be repealed.

SECTION 28. APPLICATION OF AMENDMENT. The 1982 amendment limiting appropriation increases (art. IX, sec. 16) applies to appropriations made for fiscal year 1984 and thereafter.

*No statements in support of or
opposed to Ballot Measure No. 1
were received.*