

The Quote What You Delete bill

Every voter you meet this fall will see the school fund amendment on their ballot. Here is an answer that works no matter your position on it, and a bill you can commit to introducing in January.

WHAT VOTERS WILL SEE NOVEMBER 3

OFFICIAL BALLOT · AS MANDATED BY HF 3900

Increasing funding to school districts.

"Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to increase the funding going to all school districts from the permanent school fund, which is a fund that supports school districts without raising individual income or property taxes, effective July 1, 2027?"

WHAT THE QUESTION NEVER MENTIONS

The amendment deletes 76 words from Article XI, Section 8 of the constitution, including this sentence:

~~"The principal of the permanent school fund shall be perpetual and inviolate forever."~~

Also deleted: the requirement that investment losses be repaid to the fund.

Also unmentioned: the new 4.5% payout rate sits in ordinary statute, changeable by any future simple majority.

76

words deleted from the constitution

0

mentions of any deletion in the question

0/6

score on published transparency criteria

THIS IS NOT ABOUT THE AMENDMENT

The endowment model is defensible; the House passed HF 3900 without a single no vote, and many will vote yes on the merits. The problem is the question. A prospectus that omitted this would be securities fraud; a ballot question faces no standard at all. In Minnesota you owe a homebuyer more disclosure than you owe voters amending their constitution.

THE ANSWER THAT FITS ANY POSITION

"Vote however you like on the amendment. But that question should have shown you the words it deletes. When I'm in St. Paul, I'll make sure no Minnesotan is ever asked a question like this again."

THE BILL, IN ONE SENTENCE

Any ballot question proposing to amend the Minnesota Constitution that would delete or modify existing constitutional language must quote that language verbatim in the question as it appears on the ballot.

WHY IT'S SAFE TO RUN ON

- **It touches no pending measure.** Effective for the 2028 election; the 2026 amendment is decided before the bill's first hearing. Supporting the amendment and this bill are fully compatible.
- **It has no team.** Scored against history, the 2012 marriage amendment question was fully transparent; the 2008 Legacy title wasn't. The rule bites concealment, not any party.
- **It costs almost nothing.** No new office, no new process, no discretion: either the deleted words appear in the question or they don't. The only appropriation reimburses counties in the rare case a late correction forces a reprint.
- **It's already drafted.** A bill-ready section (proposed Minn. Stat. §204D.151) with drafting notes exists and can be introduced unchanged. The honest version of the 2026 question runs 158 words and fits on a ballot with no legal obstacle.
- **Opposing it is miserable.** The counterargument is that voters shouldn't see the text they're voting to remove. Nobody campaigns on that.

THE ASK

Commit to authoring or co-authoring this bill in January 2027. This identical brief goes to offices in both parties at the same time: the first authors define the bill, and nobody is asked to stand alone.

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