

Letter to the Editor – Regarding the Sept. 18th Vote

“Opponents of Sept. 18th Vote Missing Human Factor”

Many of those that have recently written or publicly spoken in opposition to the constitutional amendment that is on the statewide ballot on September 18th are missing the most important aspect of this issue – the human factor and the impact a “no” vote will have on everyday people. Opponents talk in terms of needing to live within our means and limiting government and government services, but they would have us overlook the fact that this usually translates into eliminating or limiting critical human social services. These same opponents disregard the devastating impact of a “no” vote on individual Alabamians – individuals that both receive services and those that provide services. Opponents fail to mention that a “no” vote will likely mean that fewer low income and working families will be able to access adequate healthcare, childcare for working parents will be reduced significantly, mental health services will be reduced, and thousands of jobs will be eliminated in the public and private healthcare/hospital sectors, in many state agencies (like Human Resources, Corrections, the Courts, and Medicaid), and in many other sectors of Alabama’s economy that support these services. This is what really is at stake on September 18th. I know and believe that we as a State need in the very near future to deal with the systemic issues that annually cause a shortfall in the General Fund budget, but I am not willing to risk the health and well-being of so many Alabamians on the chance that the Legislature will deal now with these systemic issues in a way that will equally address both the need for increased General Fund revenues and any necessary changes in the delivery of social services. For these reasons I plan to vote “yes” on September 18th.”

Submitted by:

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