



# SAY NO TO EXCESSIVE RULES

VOTE



# YES on HJR 2

**HJR 2 keeps unelected officials from adding unnecessary rules to laws that have already passed.**

## THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE ON THE BALLOT

When you go to vote on November 4, you'll have some important decisions to make about the future of our state. There's one decision you'll be called upon to make that only recently began receiving attention in the press.

More than anything else you see on the ballot, make certain you **vote "Yes" on HJR 2, a crucial piece of legislation that will ensure our elected officials have the power to protect our freedoms.**

## PROTECTING OUR FREEDOMS

We elect people to the legislature, and they write and then vote on bills that become laws. And that's democracy, right? That's where it ends, isn't it?

Actually, it's not so simple. In reality, when a bill becomes a law, the executive branch of the government, most of whom were not elected, must then decide how that law will be enforced by writing a set of rules—rules that are enforced just as strictly as any law. Those rules could dictate, for example, that your plumber or air conditioning installer be required to get more education before receiving a state license.

Whether we notice them or not, we live with those rules every day, and they affect our lives in more ways than we might realize. We've all experienced the results of excessive regulation and red tape from our federal government at one time or another. We've seen what happens when rules from the executive branch intrude on our day-to-day lives. Many of us have experienced the frustrations that come

when a sensible law is enforced in a nitpicky way.

Even with their established checks and balances, most states don't have a recourse for these sorts of encroaching rules, but Idaho does. Ours is one of just a few states where elected officials review those rules every year to make sure they keep to the letter and the spirit of the laws they're based on.

That process also gives elected officials a chance to speak to regular citizens about the proposed rules to learn how they'll

**If HJR 2 passes, this review process will become a part of Idaho's constitution, and no state government agency will be able to slip unnecessary language into the rules that will be enforced.**

impact the everyday people who will have to live by those rules. In the example above, plumbers, HVAC installers and concerned homeowners might have a chance to share with the legislators how the new rules will change what they do and whether they feel those changes are really necessary.

But that legislative review process isn't set in stone—not yet, anyway. That's where House Joint Resolution 2 (HJR 2) comes in. HJR 2 is your chance to weigh in on this review process. If HJR 2 passes, this review process will become a part of Idaho's constitution, and no state government agency will be able to slip unnecessary language into the rules that will be enforced.

## A GOVERNMENT FOR THE PEOPLE

HJR 2's few opponents argue the constitutional amendment would cement what is already too much power in the hands of elected officials. They say elected officials are too easily swayed by special interest groups or even their own constituents.

Democracy is not without its risks, and no one has claimed that it's perfect. But an argument for giving more power to unelected government representatives and less in the hands of elected legislators is an argument against a basic tenet of democracy. Elected officials are supposed to represent the citizens who elect them—that's their job. They're supposed to protect the interests of those who put them in office.

HJR 2 only ensures that those we elect will have the opportunity to do what we expect and ask them to do: to govern and look after our welfare and interest in that government.

It's noteworthy that HJR 2 has already passed through the house and the senate without a single vote against it. Our elected officials support this change to the state constitution unanimously, regardless of party or constituency. Every legislator who voted on that bill felt it would make things better for Idahoans.

**Now it's your turn to weigh in, and your vote could have serious implications for the future of our state. Together, we can give our state elected officials the opportunity to protect us from unnecessary or unreasonable rules. That's why, above everything else you see on the ballot this fall, you need to vote "Yes" on HJR 2.**