

# Vote YES on Amendment 4

## Protect Local Schools from Unfunded Mandates

### Act 2014-185

- Stop Montgomery from spending your local school money.
- In 1998, the Legislature considered a constitutional amendment that would ask Alabama voters to protect local government entities from unfunded mandates. The amendment included county commissions, municipalities and local school boards.
- Final passage was threatened in the Senate with an ultimatum that the bill would die if local school boards remained in the bill.
- The measure passed *without* school boards. Voters could only provide constitutional protection to counties and cities in Amendment 621 when they voted to approve it in 1999.
- Today, local school boards remain the *only* local government entity without state constitutional protection from unfunded mandates. For that reason, every piece of legislation introduced that has a fiscal impact on local school boards always includes this language:

*Although this bill would have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds, the bill is excluded from further requirements and application under Amendment 621, now appearing as Section 111.05 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, because the bill requires expenditures only by a school board.*

- Amendment 621 requires lawmakers to pass by a 2/3 vote any legislation that would impose a new or increased expenditure of local funds more than \$50,000. This proposal would extend the same protection to local schools.
- Without passage of Amendment 4 (Act 2014-185), local funding that school leaders spend on the communities' priorities can be forced to be spent to comply with unfunded state mandates.
- Amendment 4 includes a provision that protects employee salaries and benefits to prevent differing pay scales for state or local funded positions.
- It's time for Alabama voters to decide to protect local schools from unfunded mandates.
- Vote YES to Amendment 4 in the general election.

