



Roy Cooper, Governor  
*State of North Carolina*

GOVERNOR ROY COOPER OBJECTIONS AND VETO MESSAGE:

***Senate Bill 656 AN ACT TO CHANGE THE DEFINITION OF A "POLITICAL PARTY" BY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR THE FORMATION OF A NEW POLITICAL PARTY AND FOR UNAFFILIATED CANDIDATES TO OBTAIN BALLOT ACCESS ELIGIBILITY; TO AUTHORIZE ESTABLISHMENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES RECOGNIZED IN A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF STATES IN THE PRIOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION; TO CHANGE TIMING OF FILING OF PETITIONS; TO REDUCE THE THRESHOLD FOR A SUBSTANTIAL PLURALITY TO THIRTY PERCENT; AND TO ELIMINATE JUDICIAL PRIMARIES FOR THE 2018 GENERAL ELECTION.***

This legislation abolishes a scheduled election and takes away the right of the people to vote for the judges of their choice. It is the first step toward a constitutional amendment that will rig the system so that the legislature picks everybody's judges in every district instead of letting the people vote for the judges they want. If the legislature doesn't like the fact that judges are ruling many of their laws unconstitutional, they should change their ways instead of their judges.

Therefore, I veto the bill.

  
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Roy Cooper  
Governor

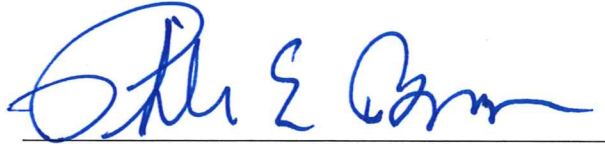
The bill, having been vetoed, is returned to the Clerk of the North Carolina Senate on this the 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017, at 11:55 am for reconsideration by that body.

The Capitol Building, Raleigh, NC 27602  
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*Received from the  
Governor - Oct. 9, 2017  
@ 11:56 a.m.  
Sarah Lang*

**SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective January 1, 2018, and applies to all primaries and elections held on or after that date.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017.



Presiding Officer of the Senate

**VETO**



~~Tim Moore~~

~~Speaker of the House of Representatives~~

Presiding Officer

Roy Cooper  
Governor

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ .m. this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

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