

# The HIDDEN AGENDA

## Behind State Question 776



**THINK TWICE:**  
Wrong Time  
Wrong Direction  
**VOTE NO ON SQ 776**

**Will you allow the Legislature to subvert the traditional checks and balances of our three-branch system of government?** State Question 776 seeks to forbid Oklahoma courts from their constitutional role of interpreting laws passed by the legislature.

SQ 776 seeks to preserve existing death sentences in the event that a particular method of execution is invalidated by the courts. At about the same time as the legislature put SQ 776 on the ballot, it also passed HB 1879. **HB 1879 has already accomplished that goal. SQ 776 is redundant and invites costly legal expenses for tax payers.**

The SQ 776 ballot language is:

*"This measure adds a new section to the Oklahoma Constitution. It adds Section 9A of Article 2. It states that all death penalty statutes are in effect. It states that methods of execution can be changed. It states that the death penalty is not cruel and unusual punishment. SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?"*

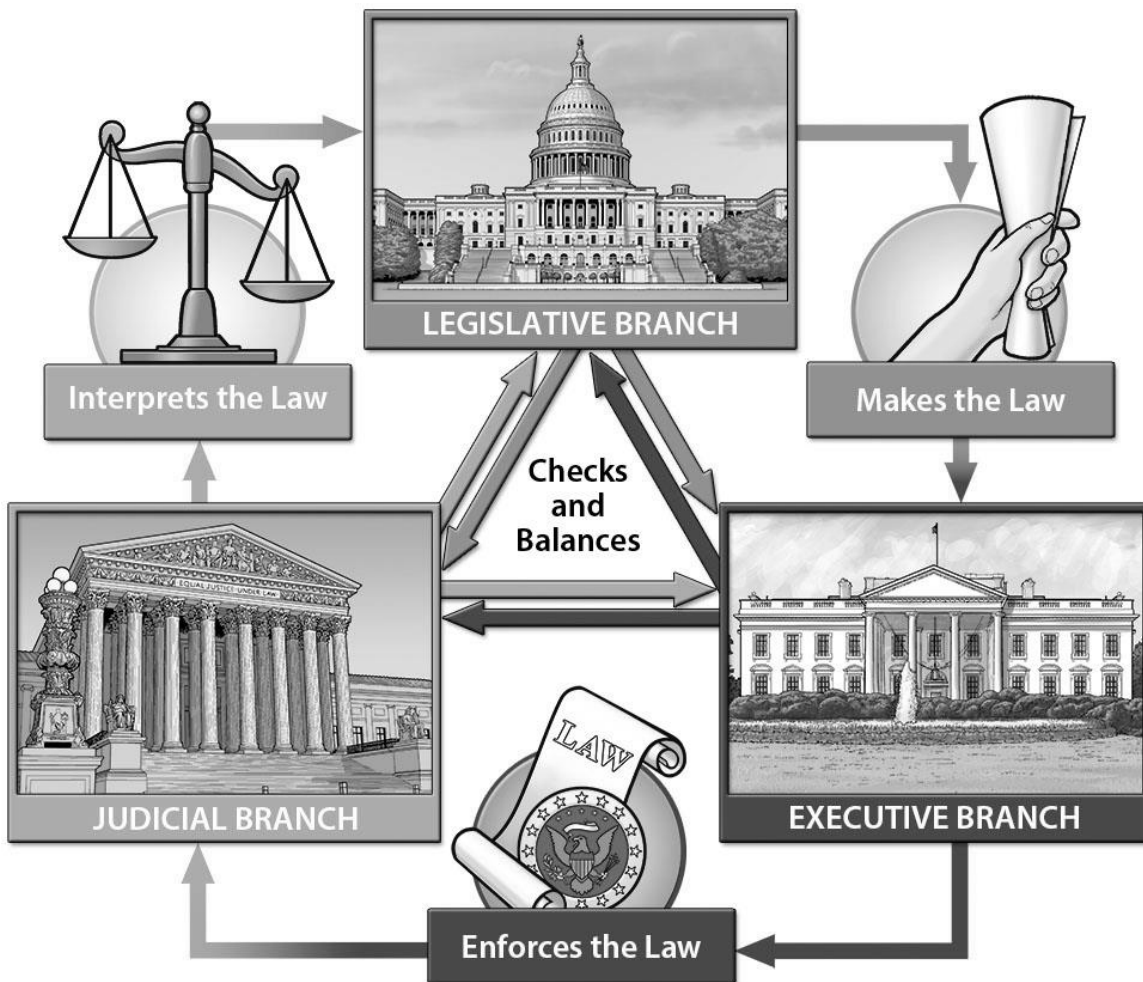
What's hidden is this:

The proposed amendment would add a Section 9a to Article II of the Oklahoma Constitution. The following text would be added by the proposed measure's approval:

*"All statutes of this state requiring, authorizing, imposing or relating to the death penalty are in full force and effect, subject to legislative amendment or repeal by statute, initiative or referendum. Any method of execution shall be allowed, unless prohibited by the United States Constitution. Methods of execution may be designated by the Legislature. A sentence of death shall not be reduced on the basis that a method of execution is invalid. In any case in which an execution method is declared invalid, the death sentence shall remain in force until the sentence can be lawfully executed by any valid method. **The death penalty provided for under such statutes shall not be deemed to be, or to constitute, the infliction of cruel or unusual punishments, nor shall such punishment be deemed to contravene any other provision of this Constitution.**"*

Remember when you studied Government in School? We have three branches of government: The Legislature makes the laws, the Courts interpret the laws, and the Executive carries out the laws. They CHECK and BALANCE each other. SQ 776 goes against the intention of our nation's founders. **Vote NO on SQ 776 on November 8<sup>th</sup> or by mail before November 8<sup>th</sup>!**

# The Hidden Agenda Behind SQ 776



Do you remember studying about “separation of powers” and “checks and balances” in high school Government class? SQ 776 goes against the intention of our nations’ founders by prohibiting Oklahoma courts from interpreting specific Oklahoma laws, thus inhibiting the traditional role of the judiciary.

Think Twice, Oklahoma! **Vote NO on SQ 776 on November 8<sup>th</sup> or by mail before November 8<sup>th</sup>.** Learn more at [www.ThinkTwiceOK.com](http://www.ThinkTwiceOK.com)



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