



STATE OF MICHIGAN
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS
LANSING

January 2019

**INITIATIVES AND REFERENDUMS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN OF 1963**

Proposed Constitutional Amendments (Pages 2-6)

- Since the adoption of the State Constitution of 1963, 76 proposed amendments to the Constitution have been presented on the ballot for a vote of the people. Thirty-four of the amendments were approved and 42 were rejected.
- Of the 76 proposed amendments, 43 were placed on the ballot by the State Legislature (22 were approved and 21 were rejected) and 33 were placed on the ballot by initiative petition (12 were approved and 21 were rejected).
- In addition, the “automatic” proposal relating to the calling of a constitutional convention (Art. XII, Sec. 3, of the State Constitution) was presented in 1978, 1994 and 2010; in all three instances the proposals were rejected.

Referendums of Laws (Pages 7-8)

- Since 1963, 24 referendums have been presented on the ballot for a vote of the people. Eleven of the referendums were approved and 13 were rejected.
- Of the 24 referendums, 14 were placed on the ballot by the State Legislature (10 were approved and 4 were rejected) and 10 were placed on the ballot by petition (1 was approved and 9 were rejected).

Proposed Initiated Laws (Pages 9-10)

- Since 1963, 14 legislative initiatives have been presented on the ballot for a vote of the people. Eight of the initiatives were approved and 6 were rejected.
- Of the 14 legislative initiatives, all were placed on the ballot by petition as required by law.
- In addition to the above, the State Legislature has enacted 9 legislative proposals presented by petition during the 40-day period provided for such action. In such instances, the proposals do not appear on the ballot.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Subject of Proposed Constitutional Amendment	Provision to be Amended	Method of Proposal ¹	Year of Election ²	Prop.	Action	Total Vote	
						For	Against
Lower voting age to 18	Art 2 §1	SJR A	1966	1	Rejected	703,076	1,267,872
Create judicial tenure commission	Art 6 §30	HJR PP	Aug. 1968	1	Adopted	553,182	228,738
Create state officers' compensation commission	Art 4 § 12	HJR AAA	Aug. 1968	2	Adopted	417,393	346,839
Filling judicial vacancies	Art 6 §§ 20, 22-24	HJR F	Aug. 1968	3	Adopted	494,512	266,561
Allow legislators to be elected to another state office during term of office	Art 4 § 9	SJR Q	1968	5	Rejected	778,388	1,783,186
Authorize graduated income tax	Art 9 §7	SJR G	1968	1	Rejected	614,826	2,025,052
Prohibit public aid to non-public schools and students	Art 8 §2	Petition	1970	C	Adopted	1,416,838	1,078,740
Lower voting age to 18	Art 2 §1	HJR A	1970	B	Rejected	924,981	1,446,884
Authorize lotteries and lottery ticket sales	Art 4 §41	HJR V	May 1972	A	Adopted	1,352,768	506,778
Allow legislators to resign and accept another office	Art 4 §9	SJR DD	May 1972	B	Rejected	866,593	915,312
Allow trials with fewer than 12 jurors for certain misdemeanors	Art 1 §20	HJR M	Aug. 1972	A	Adopted	696,570	357,186
Cap local property taxes; establish state tax program for school funding	Art 9 §6	Petition	1972	C	Rejected	1,324,702	1,815,126
Authorize graduated income tax	Art 9 §7	Petition	1972	D	Rejected	959,286	2,102,744
Limit use of motor fuel taxes	Art 9 §9	SJR LL	1974	A	Rejected	1,091,938	1,146,109
Eliminate sales/use taxes on food and prescription drugs	Art 9 §8	Petition	1974	C	Adopted	1,337,609	1,071,253
Lower minimum age for state legislators to 18	Art 4 §7	HJR B	1976	B	Rejected	698,993	2,580,945
Cap state taxes at 8.3% of personal income	Art 9 §§25-31	Petition	1976	C	Rejected	1,407,438	1,866,620
Authorize graduated income tax	Art 9 §7	Petition	1976	D	Rejected	897,780	2,332,513

¹ "HJR" means House Joint Resolution; "SJR" means Senate Joint Resolution.

² All elections in November unless otherwise specified.

Subject of Proposed Constitutional Amendment	Provision to be Amended	Method of Proposal ¹	Year of Election ²	Prop.	Action	Total Vote	
						For	Against
Call for constitutional convention	N/A	Required by Art 12, § 3	1978	A	Rejected	640,286	2,112,549
Authorize deposit of state funds in credit unions	Art 9 §§19-20	HJR GG	1978	C	Adopted	1,819,847	933,101
Prohibit alcohol sales to persons under 21	Art 4 §40	Petition	1978	D	Adopted	1,609,589	1,208,497
Limit taxes imposed by state and local units of government (<i>Headlee Amendment</i>)	Art 9 §§6, 25-34	Petition	1978	E	Adopted	1,450,150	1,313,984
Grant state troopers the right to collective bargaining	Art 11 §5	Petition	1978	G	Adopted	1,535,023	1,203,930
Authorize vouchers for public and non-public school students	Art 9 §6 Art 8 §2	Petition	1978	H	Rejected	718,440	2,075,583
Reduce property taxes; prohibit new local programs without state funding	Art 9 §§3-3(a), 7(a)-7(b), 25(a)-26	Petition	1978	J	Rejected	1,032,343	1,737,133
Allow denial of bail for certain violent crimes	Art 1 §15	HJR Q	1978	K	Adopted	2,307,038	458,357
Allocate at least 90% of gas taxes for roads and up to 10% for other transportation purposes	Art 5 §28 Art 9 §9	HJR F	1978	M	Adopted	1,478,316	1,233,196
Create railroad redevelopment authority	Art 4 §54	HJR OO	1978	R	Rejected	1,257,606	1,415,441
Require state to provide equal per pupil funding	Art 8 §2 Art 9 §§6-6a, 26a	Petition	1980	A	Rejected	746,027	2,769,497
Lower drinking age to 19	Art 4 §40	HJR S	1980	B	Rejected	1,403,935	2,250,873
Deposit lottery revenues in school aid fund; create rainy day fund	Art 4 §§41, 54 Art 9 §§2-3, 8, 30-31	SJR X	1980	C	Rejected	894,441	2,583,253
Lower property taxes; require 60% voter approval to raise state taxes	Art 9 §§1-3, 31, 2a, 3a-3f, 33a-33b	Petition	1980	D	Rejected	1,622,301	2,051,008
Legislative immunity from civil arrest and process	Art 4 §11	SJR L	1980	G	Rejected	1,287,172	2,134,546
Filling vacancy in office of lieutenant governor	Art 4 §9 Art 5 §25-26	SJR K	1980	H	Rejected	1,410,912	1,927,001
Reduce local taxes; require lottery revenues to be deposited in school aid fund	Art 4 §41 Art 9 §§3, 8, 30-31	HJR G	May 1981	A	Rejected	560,924	1,451,305

Subject of Proposed Constitutional Amendment	Provision to be Amended	Method of Proposal ¹	Year of Election ²	Prop.	Action	Total Vote	
						For	Against
Legislative immunity from civil arrest and process	Art 4 §11	SJR A	1982	A	Adopted	1,804,728	1,029,743
Create department of state police; require minimum staffing	Art 5 §§2, 30	Petition	1982	B	Rejected	720,915	2,111,802
Elect public service commission	Art 5 §30	Petition	1982	G	Rejected	1,026,160	1,771,098
Allow legislature to approve or reject administrative rules	Art 4 §37	HJR P	1984	A	Rejected	1,280,948	1,827,677
Create natural resources trust fund	Art 9 §35	HJR M	1984	B	Adopted	2,066,554	1,120,794
Voter or legislative approval of taxes	Art 9 §§1-2	Petition	1984	C	Rejected	1,376,141	2,035,867
Create library of Michigan	Art 4 §54	HJR V	1986	A	Rejected	908,627	936,643
Allow legislature to approve or reject administrative rules	Art 4 §37	HJR W	1986	B	Rejected	648,116	1,136,721
Require commission to set attorney general and secretary of state compensation	Art 4 §12	HJR U	1986	C	Rejected	905,767	910,297
Provide for crime victims' rights	Art 1 §24	HJR P	1988	B	Adopted	2,662,796	650,515
Increase sales/use taxes to 4½¢; dedicate revenue to schools	Art 4 §41 Art 9 §§8, 10-11	HJR I	1989	A	Rejected	514,407	1,341,292
Increase sales/use taxes to 6¢, reduce school property taxes, and dedicate revenue to schools	Art 4 §41 Art 9 §§ 3, 5-6, 8, 10-11, 14	HJR I	1989	B	Rejected	436,958	1,392,053
Cap property tax increases; provide separate tax limitations	Art 9 §§3, 31	HJR H	1992	A	Rejected	1,433,354	2,384,777
Term limits for congressional, state executive and legislative offices	Art 2 §10 Art 4§54 Art 5 §30 Art 12 §4	Petition	1992	B	Adopted	2,295,904	1,613,404
School property tax exemptions; cap property tax increases	Art 9 §3	Petition	1992	C	Rejected	1,552,119	2,276,360
Cap property taxes and increase sales tax	Art 4 §41 Art 9 §§3, 6, 8, 10-11	HJR G	June 1993	A	Rejected	1,008,425	1,164,468
Increase sales/use taxes from 4% to 6%; cap property tax increases; allow different school operating millage rates (<i>Proposal A</i>)	Art 9 §§3, 5, 8, 11, 36	SJR S	March 1994	A	Adopted	1,684,541	750,952
Call for constitutional convention	N/A	Required by Art 12 §3	1994	A	Rejected	777,779	2,008,070

Subject of Proposed Constitutional Amendment	Provision to be Amended	Method of Proposal ¹	Year of Election ²	Prop.	Action	Total Vote	
						For	Against
Limit appeals in criminal cases	Art 1 §20	SJR D	1994	B	Adopted	2,118,734	761,784
Create state parks endowment fund; limit use of natural resources trust fund	Art 9 §§35, 36	SJR E	1994	P	Adopted	2,007,097	806,888
Establish qualifications for judicial offices	Art 6 §19	SJR D	1996	B	Adopted	2,806,833	629,402
Create veterans' trust fund	Art 9 §§37-39	HJR H	1996	C	Adopted	2,447,905	849,525
Replace "handicapped" with "disabled"	Art 8 §8	SJR I	1998	A	Adopted	1,708,873	1,181,138
Authorize indirect support of non-public school students	Art 8 §§2, 10	Petition	2000	00-1	Rejected	1,235,533	2,767,320
Require ² / ₃ vote to enact laws affecting local governments	Art 4 §55	Petition	2000	00-2	Rejected	1,242,516	2,548,995
Changes to state officers' compensation commission	Art 4 §12	HJR E	Aug. 2002	02-1	Adopted	1,057,503	404,682
Authorize spending for state and local parks and outdoor recreation	Art 9 §§19, 35, 36, 37	SJR T	Aug. 2002	02-2	Adopted	925,475	565,971
Grant state employees collective bargaining rights	Art 11 §5	Petition	2002	02-3	Rejected	1,336,249	1,591,756
Allocate tobacco settlement funds	Art 9 §36	Petition	2002	02-4	Rejected	1,018,644	2,011,105
Require voter approval of new gambling and lottery games	Art 4 §41	Petition	2004	04-1	Adopted	2,689,448	1,926,721
Specify what can be recognized as a "marriage or similar union"	Art 1 §25	Petition	2004	04-2	Adopted	2,698,077	1,904,319
Conservation/recreation funds	Art 9 §§40-42	HJR Z	2006	06-1	Adopted	2,915,106	680,859
Ban affirmative action programs	Art 1 §26	Petition	2006	06-2	Adopted	2,141,010	1,555,691
Restrict use of eminent domain	Art 10 §2	SJR E	2006	06-4	Adopted	2,914,214	724,573
Regulate stem cell research	Art 1 §27	Petition	2008	08-02	Adopted	2,521,026	2,271,083
Call for constitutional convention	N/A	Required by Art 12 §3	2010	10-1	Rejected	983,019	1,960,573
Ban certain felons from public offices	Art 11 §8	SJR V	2010	10-2	Adopted	2,270,6-57	760,586
Collective bargaining rights for all workers	Art 1 §28 Art 11 §5	Petition	2012	12-2	Rejected	1,949,513	2,626,731
Renewable energy mandate	Art 4 §55	Petition	2012	12-3	Rejected	1,721,279	2,842,000
Create home care council	Art 5 §31 Art 11 §5	Petition	2012	12-4	Rejected	1,985,595	2,550,420

Subject of Proposed Constitutional Amendment	Provision to be Amended	Method of Proposal ¹	Year of Election ²	Prop.	Action	Total Vote	
						For	Against
Require supermajority vote for new taxes	Art 9 §26a	Petition	2012	12-5	Rejected	1,410,944	3,105,649
Require voter approval to construct international bridges	Art 3 §6a	Petition	2012	12-6	Rejected	1,853,127	2,699,558
Increase sales and use taxes to 7% and increase gas tax and vehicle registration fees; dedicate revenue to transportation purposes	Art 9 §§8, 10, 11	HJR UU	May 2015	15-1	Rejected	349,862	1,406,019
Create independent citizens redistricting commission	Art 4 §§1-6 Art 5 §§1-2, 4 Art 6 §§1, 4	Petition	2018	18-2	Adopted	2,522,355	1,593,556
Allow election day voter registration, no-reason absentee voting and straight party voting	Art 2 §4	Petition	2018	18-3	Adopted	2,777,998	1,373,636

Referendum of Laws

Subject of Referendum	Method	Date of Election ³	Prop.	Action	Total Vote	
					For	Against
Act 240 of 1964, prohibiting straight party ticket voting	Referendum Petition	1964	C	Rejected	795,546	1,515,875
Act 6 of 1967, establishing daylight saving time	Referendum Petition	1968	2	Rejected	1,402,562	1,403,052
Act 76 of 1968, authorizing bonds for water pollution abatement	Legislation	1968	3	Adopted	1,906,385	796,079
Act 257 of 1968, authorizing bonds for public recreation programs and facilities	Legislation	1968	4	Adopted	1,384,254	1,235,681
Act 304 of 1969, authorizing bonds for low-income housing	Legislation	1970	A	Rejected	921,482	1,388,737
Act 231 of 1972, authorizing bonds for bonus payments to and educational benefits for veterans	Legislation	1972	E	Rejected	1,490,968	1,603,203
Act 106 of 1974, authorizing bonds for bonus payments to veterans	Legislation	1974	B	Adopted	1,668,641	700,041
Act 245 of 1974, authorizing bonds for transportation purposes	Legislation	1974	D	Rejected	963,576	1,319,586
Act 250 of 1980, increasing the state income tax 0.1% for 5 years for correctional facilities and programs	Legislation	1980	E	Rejected	1,288,999	2,202,042
Act 212 of 1982, prohibiting utility rate increases without notice and hearing	Legislation	1982	H	Adopted	1,670,381	1,131,990
Act 59 of 1987, prohibiting use of public funds for abortions	Referendum Petition	1988	A	Adopted	1,959,727	1,486,371
Act 326 of 1988, authorizing bonds for environmental protection programs	Legislation	1988	C	Adopted	2,528,109	774,451
Act 327 of 1988, authorizing bonds to finance state and local recreation projects	Legislation	1988	D	Adopted	2,055,290	1,206,465
Act 143 of 1993, reducing auto insurance rates and limiting personal injury benefits	Referendum Petition	1994	C	Rejected	1,165,732	1,812,526
Act 118 of 1994, amending the Michigan Bingo Act	Referendum Petition	1996	A	Rejected	1,511,063	1,936,198
Act 377 of 1996, providing for wildlife management	Legislation	1996	G	Adopted	2,413,730	1,099,262
Act 284 of 1998, authorizing bonds for natural resources and environmental programs	Legislation	1998	C	Adopted	1,821,006	1,081,988

³ All elections in November unless otherwise specified.

Subject of Referendum	Method	Date of Election ³	Prop.	Action	Total Vote	
					For	Against
Act 269 of 2001, eliminating straight party voting and making other changes to election law	Referendum Petition	2002	02-1	Rejected	1,199,236	1,775,043
Act 396 of 2002, authorizing bonds for sewage treatment and water pollution projects	Legislation	2002	02-2	Adopted	1,774,053	1,172,612
Act 160 of 2004, establishing a mourning dove hunting season	Referendum Petition	2006	06-3	Rejected	1,137,379	2,534,680
Act 4 of 2011, authorizing emergency managers to address local financial emergencies	Referendum Petition	2012	12-1	Rejected	2,130,354	2,370,601
Act 408 of 2012, reducing the state use tax and replacing it with a local community stabilization share	Legislation	Aug. 2014	14-1	Adopted	863,459	382,770
Act 520 of 2012, establishing a wolf hunting season	Referendum Petition	2014	14-1	Rejected	1,318,080	1,606,328
Act 21 of 2013, authorizing commission to designate animals as game without legislative action	Referendum Petition	2014	14-2	Rejected	1,051,426	1,856,603

Proposed Initiated Laws

Subject of Proposed Initiated Law	Date of Election ⁴	Prop.	Action	Total Vote	
				For	Against
Allow abortions if period of gestation has not exceeded 20 weeks	1972	B	Rejected	1,270,416	1,958,265
Repeal Act 6 of 1967, establishing daylight saving time	1972	A	Adopted	1,754,887	1,460,724
Prohibit nonreturnable beverage containers and require refundable cash deposits for returnable containers (<i>Bottle bill</i>)	1976	A	Adopted	2,160,398	1,227,254
Revise standards for parole and prohibit parole for certain crimes until court-ordered minimum sentence is served	1978	B	Adopted	2,075,599	711,262
Prohibit lender from using a “due on sale” clause in foreclosure proceedings on a mortgage or land contract	1982	C	Rejected	1,344,463	1,445,897
Prohibit utility rate increases without notice or hearing	1982	D	Adopted	1,472,442	1,431,884
Urge nuclear weapons freeze between the US and USSR	1982	E	Adopted	1,585,809	1,216,172
Amend auto insurance laws	1992	D	Rejected	1,482,577	2,480,032
Limit bear hunting season; ban use of bait and dogs to hunt bear	1996	D	Rejected	1,379,340	2,225,675
Authorize casino gaming in qualified cities	1996	E	Adopted	1,878,542	1,768,156
Allow prescription of a legal dose of medication to terminally ill adults in order to commit suicide	1998	B	Rejected	859,381	2,116,154
Establish mandatory school funding levels	2006	06-5	Rejected	1,366,355	2,259,247
Authorize marijuana use and cultivation for medical purposes	2008	08-1	Adopted	3,006,820	1,790,889
Authorize marijuana retail sales, use and consumption by persons over 21	2018	18-1	Adopted	2,356,422	1,859,675

⁴ All elections in November unless otherwise specified.

Initiated Laws Adopted by State Legislature

Subject of Initiated Law	Legislative Action
Prohibit use of public funds to pay for abortions	Adopted by Legislature, 1987 PA 59
Require parental consent for abortions	Adopted by Legislature, 1990 PA 211
Define legal birth and legal personhood	Adopted by Legislature, 2004 PA 135
Repeal 1975 PA 228, the Single Business Tax Act	Adopted by Legislature, 2006 PA 325
Enact Abortion Insurance Opt-Out Act	Adopted by Legislature, 2013 PA 182
Require sound scientific management of fish and wildlife	Adopted by Legislature, 2014 PA 281
Repeal 1965 PA 166, the Prevailing Wages and Fringe Benefits Act	Adopted by Legislature, 2018 PA 171
Increase minimum wage rate for tipped and non-tipped workers	Adopted by Legislature, 2018 PA 337
Require employers to provide paid sick leave	Adopted by Legislature, 2018 PA 338