

BALLOTWATCH

Overview

- 28 ballot propositions in nine states; 22 propositions on November 3; six before November 3.
- Five initiatives, four advisory measures, and 19 legislative measures.
- Most propositions: Texas 7, Washington 6, Louisiana 4, Maine 3.
- 20 approved, 8 not approved.

ELECTION RESULTS 2015

Voters registered their views on 28 state-level ballot propositions in nine states this year, approving 20 of them. Three of five initiatives were approved. The highest profile issue was Ohio's initiative to legalize marijuana and grant a production monopoly to the initiative's sponsors. Voters decisively rejected the initiative.

For a detailed discussion of high profile issues, see IRI's Election 2015 Preview (BW 2015-1). For additional information on ballot measures see ballotpedia.org and ncs.org.



STATE-BY-STATE LIST

The remainder of this report contains a complete list of state-level propositions for 2015. An "initiative" is a citizen-sponsored law that is placed on the ballot by petition. Unless otherwise noted, propositions appear on the November 3 ballot. Election results are unofficial.

Colorado

- *Prop BB. Marijuana tax revenue.* Legislative statute that permits state to spend unanticipated marijuana tax revenue, instead of rebating to voters. APPROVED 69-31

Louisiana (October 24)

All four propositions were constitutional amendments from the legislature.

- *Amendment 1. Transportation fund.* Creates new fund for transportation projects from mineral revenue currently dedicated to budget stabilization fund. FAILED 47-53
- *Amendment 2. State infrastructure bank.* Allows state to invest. APPROVED 53-47
- *Amendment 3. Fiscal legislative session.* Removes restriction on allowable revenue laws during fiscal legislative sessions. FAILED 46-54
- *Amendment 4. Property tax.* Allows local governments to tax property owned by governments in other states. APPROVED 51-49

Maine

Question 1 was an initiative. Questions 2 and 3 were legislative statutes.

- *Question 1. Campaign funding.* Increases money to publicly fund campaigns; eliminates certain corporate tax exemptions; increases disclosure requirements. APPROVED 55-45
- *Question 2. \$15 million bond issue for homes for low-income seniors.* APPROVED 69-31
- *Question 3. \$85 million bond issue for transportation projects.* APPROVED 73-27

Michigan (May 5)

- *Proposal 15-1. Sales tax increase.* Legislative proposal to increase sales and gas taxes for transportation projects. FAILED 20-80

IRI

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*Citizen lawmaking
slows: only 28
propositions in nine
states*

Mississippi

Both measures were constitutional amendments; 42 was an initiative and 42A a legislative response. Voters first indicated whether they wanted “either” of the measures, or neither of them. Voters rejected “either” 48-52. Then they indicated which of the two they preferred, favoring 42A over 42 by a 59-41 margin. Because the majority rejected “either”, both measures failed.

- *Initiative Measure 42. Education spending, enforced by courts.* Requires state to provide an “adequate and efficient” public education system; empowers courts to enforce.
- *Alternative Measure 42A. Education funding, enforced by legislature.* Same as Measure 42, but assigns enforcement to legislature.

Ohio

All three issues were constitutional amendments. Issues 1 and 2 were placed on the ballot by the legislature; Issue 3 was an initiative.

- *Issue 1. Creates bipartisan redistricting commission.* APPROVED 71-29
- *Issue 2. Prohibits initiatives that grant monopolies to specific individuals or organizations.* APPROVED 52-48
- *Issue 3. Marijuana legalization.* Legalizes recreational use of marijuana; grants monopoly right to supply marijuana to owners of specific parcels of land. FAILED 36-64

Texas

All seven measures were constitutional amendments placed on ballot by legislature.

- *Prop 1. Increases exemption from public school property taxes.* APPROVED 86-14
- *Prop 2. Increases tax exemption for surviving spouse of disabled veteran.* APPROVED 91-9
- *Prop 3. Removes requirement for state officials to reside in capital.* APPROVED 66-34
- *Prop 4. Charitable raffles.* Allows sports team charities to conduct raffles. APPROVED 69-31
- *Prop 5. County roads.* Authorizes small counties to maintain private roads. APPROVED 83-17
- *Prop 6. Recognizes right to hunt and fish.* APPROVED 81-19
- *Prop 7. Dedicates some sales and car tax revenue to fund roads.* APPROVED 83-17

Washington

I-1366 and I-1401 were initiative statutes. The four advisory measures were required by the state constitution: they asked voters whether to repeal or maintain a recently approved tax increase.

- *I-1366. Sales tax cut.* Reduces sales tax from 6.5% to 5.5% unless legislature places amendment on ballot to require 2/3 approval of future tax increases. APPROVED 52-48
- *I-1401. Trafficking endangered animals.* Makes it illegal under state law (currently illegal under federal law) to traffic in parts from endangered species; prohibit sales of antiques containing significant amounts of ivory. APPROVED 70-30
- *Advisory Vote 10. Petroleum products tax.* MAINTAIN 51-49
- *Advisory Vote 11. Medical marijuana sales tax.* MAINTAIN 58-42
- *Advisory Vote 12. Gas tax.* REPEAL 35-65
- *Advisory Vote 13. Business tax, remove exemption for software companies.* REPEAL 36-64

Wisconsin (April 7)

- *Question 1. Chief justice.* Legislative amendment that allows state supreme court justices to select the chief justice, instead of current selection based on seniority. APPROVED 53-47

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