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 ncsl.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
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. Dedications 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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