

BALLOTWATCH

Overview

- November: 132 propositions in 37 states, including 28 initiatives, 2 referendums, and 97 legislative measures. Voters approved 70% of the measures
- Hot issues: abortion, marijuana and drugs, elections and voting,
- Bond issues: 7 propositions totaling \$4.9 billion
- For the year: 140 propositions in 38 states, including 28 initiatives and 2 referendums. 70% of them passed. Most for the year: Alabama 12, Louisiana 11, Colorado 11

ELECTION 2022 RESULTS

Voters registered their opinions on 140 ballot measures in 2022, approving 70% of them.

Most of the propositions, 132 in total, appeared on the ballot in November. This number was up slightly from 2020, when 122 propositions were on the ballot, the record-low for November in an even-numbered year in the 21 century. By way of comparison, before COVID the country averaged 171 propositions in even-numbered Novembers, so this year's total is about 25% below normal. Voters approved 70% of the proposals.

"Proposition" or "measure" is an umbrella term for a law that comes to a vote of the people. Under this umbrella are several variants, the highest profile of which are *initiatives*, laws proposed by citizen petition. Much of the decline in proposition activity in 2022 was due to a decline in the number of initiatives, likely a trailing effect of COVID, which made it difficult for petitioners to collect signatures. Only 28 initiatives qualified for the ballot in November, a record low for even-numbered Novembers in the 21st century, about 50% below the average pre-COVID number. Voters approved 64% of initiatives, well above the historical average of 41%. For more information on initiative trends, see *IRI Report on Initiative Use (1904-2021)*.

The most common type of proposition are those placed on the ballot by legislatures, often called *legislative measures* or *legislative propositions*. There were 97 legislative measures on the ballot in November, up from 76 in 2020.

A relatively rare type of proposition is the *referendum* (sometimes *popular referendum* or *veto referendum*), in which citizens challenge an act of the legislature by petition. There were 2 veto referendums in November.

In addition to measures on the ballot in November, there were five propositions earlier in the year and three in December. The most notable of these was in Kansas, where voters rejected a proposed amendment that would have declared that the state constitution did not contain a right to abortion.

For additional information on ballot measures, particularly updates of individual state ballots, see ballotpedia.org and updates on ballotwatch.org and iandrinstute.org.



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MULTI-STATE ISSUES & PROPS TO WATCH

PROPOSITIONS ON THE BALLOT IN NOVEMBER

The following is a list of state-level propositions for 2022. An “initiative” is a citizen-sponsored law placed on the ballot by petition. A “referendum” is a proposal to repeal an existing law placed on the ballot by petition. “Legislative” measures were placed on the ballot by the legislature.

Alabama (see also Pre-November propositions)

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

- *Constitution of Alabama of 2022*. Ratifies recompiled constitution. *APPROVED 76-24*
- *Statewide Amendment 1. Bail*. Expands list of crimes for which bail can be denied. *APPROVED 80-20*
- *Statewide Amendment 2. Internet*. Allows local governments to allocate federal funds for broadband infrastructure. *APPROVED 79-21*
- *Statewide Amendment 3. Death sentences*. Requires governor to notify victim’s family before commuting death sentence. *APPROVED 82-18*
- *Statewide Amendment 4. Election laws*. Requires election laws to be approved at least 6 months before going into effect. *APPROVED 80-20*
- *Statewide Amendment 5. Constitution*. Removes obsolete language. *APPROVED 69-31*
- *Statewide Amendment 6. City spending*. Allows certain cities to use tax revenue to pay for capital improvements. *APPROVED 61-39*
- *Statewide Amendment 7. Bonds*. Removes requirement that voters approve certain bonds. *APPROVED 75-25*
- *Statewide Amendment 8. Shelby County*. Allows county to regulate private sewage plants. *APPROVED 72-28*
- *Statewide Amendment 9. Lake View town and Jefferson County*. Allows regulation of private sewage plants. *APPROVED 71-29*
- *Statewide Amendment 10. Constitution*. Incorporates recent amendments into new constitution if constitution is approved. *APPROVED 75-25*

Alaska

- *Constitutional Convention Question*. Calls a constitutional convention; required every 10 years.. *FAILED 30-70*

Arizona

Props 128-132 were legislative amendments. Props 209 and 211 were initiative amendments. Props 308-310 were legislative statutes..

- *Prop 128. I&R*. Allows legislature to amend initiatives and referendums if they are declared partially unconstitutional. *FAILED 36-64*
- *Prop 129. Initiatives*. Requires initiatives to embrace a single subject. *APPROVED 55-45*
- *Prop 130. Property taxes*. Consolidates exemptions in a single section of constitution, allows exemption for veterans with disabilities. *APPROVED 64-36*
- *Prop 131. Creates office of Lieutenant Governor*. *APPROVED 55-46*
- *Prop 132. I&R approval*. Requires 60% approval for initiatives and referendums to pass. *APPROVED 51-49*
- *Prop 209. Interest rates*. Reduces maximum interest rate on medical debt from 10% to 3%. *APPROVED 72-28*
- *Prop 211. Campaign spending*. Requires large independent expenditures to disclose the “original sources” of money. *APPROVED 72-28*

Alabama — Arizona

STATE-BY-STATE LIST

- *Prop 308. In-state college tuition.* Allows non-citizens to pay in-state tuition rates. *APPROVED 51-49*
- *Prop 309. Voter ID.* Increases ID requirements for mail-in ballots. *FAILED 49.6-50.4*
- *Prop 310. Increases sales tax 0.1%, with revenue for fire safety districts.* *FAILED 48-52*

Arkansas

Issues 1-3 were legislative amendments. Issue 4 was an initiative amendment.

- *Issue 1. Provides for extraordinary sessions of legislature.* *FAILED 39-61*
- *Issue 2. I&R.* Requires 60% approval for initiatives and referendums. *FAILED 41-59*
- *Issue 3. Provides for religious freedom.* *FAILED 49.6-50.4*
- *Issue 4. Legalizes marijuana.* *FAILED 44-56*

California

Prop 1 was a legislative constitutional amendment. Props 26-27 were initiatives that amended both the constitution and statutes. Props 28-30 were initiative statutes. Prop 31 was a veto referendum.

- *Prop 1. Abortion.* Prohibits all government restrictions on abortion. *APPROVED 67-33*
- *Prop 26. Sports betting.* Legalizes sports betting at Indian casinos and existing race tracks. *FAILED 33-67*
- *Prop 27. Online betting.* Legalizes online sports betting. *FAILED 18-82*
- *Prop 28. Arts and music.* Dedicates 1% of state education revenue to arts and music. *APPROVED 64-36*
- *Prop 29. Kidney dialysis clinics.* Requires licensed medical professional on site. *FAILED 36-64*
- *Prop 30. Income tax for green cars.* Increases income tax by 1.75% on incomes over \$2 million, dedicates money to zero-emission vehicles and charging stations. *FAILED 42-58*
- *Prop 31. Flavored tobacco.* To approve or repeal a law banning flavored tobacco products. *APPROVED 63-37*

Colorado

Amendments D, E, F were legislative amendments. Props FF and GG were legislative statutes. The other measures were initiative statutes.

- *Amendment D. Judges.* Transfers certain judges from one district to another district. *APPROVED 67-33*
- *Amendment E. Property tax.* Extends veteran exemption to surviving spouse. *APPROVED 81-19*
- *Amendment F. Charitable gambling.* Makes organizations eligible after 3 instead of 5 years. *FAILED 41-59*
- *Prop FF. Income tax .* Reduces deductions, dedicates revenue to school meals. *APPROVED 57-43*
- *Prop GG. Ballot measures.* Requires titles and impact statement to indicate effect by income bracket. *APPROVED 72-28*
- *Prop 121. Reduces personal and corporate income tax rates.* *APPROVED 65-35*
- *Prop 122. Income tax rate.* Reduces from 4.65% to 4.55%. *APPROVED 54-46*
- *Prop 123. Legalizes hallucinogenic mushrooms.* *APPROVED 53-47*
- *Prop 124. Liquor licenses.* Allows stores to obtain more licenses. *FAILED 38-62*
- *Prop 125. Wine sales.* Allows retailers with beer licenses to sell wine. *APPROVED 51-49*

Arizona — Colorado

STATE-BY-STATE LIST (CONTINUED)

- *Prop 126. Allows delivery of alcohol to customers. FAILED 49-51*

Connecticut

- *Ballot Question. Legislative proposal to allow in-person early voting. APPROVED 61-39*

Florida

All amendments were legislative proposals.

- *Amendment 1. Property tax exemption for improvements to resist flooding. APPROVED 57-43*
- *Amendment 2. Abolishes Constitutional Revision Commission. APPROVED 54-46*
- *Amendment 3. Property tax exemption for teachers, police, and others. APPROVED 59-41*

Georgia

All proposals were from the legislature. "Referendum Questions" were statutes.

- *Amendment 1. Public official compensation. Suspends compensation upon felony indictment. APPROVED 88-12*
- *Amendment 2. Local tax relief for disaster areas. APPROVED 92-8*
- *Referendum Question A. Property taxes. Extends exemption for agricultural equipment to mergers of family farms. APPROVED 59-41*
- *Referendum Question B. Property taxes. Exempts timber equipment. APPROVED 76-24*

Idaho

Both proposals were placed on the ballot by the legislature.

- *Amendment SJR 102. Special session. Allows 60% of legislators to call special session. APPROVED 80-20*
- *Idaho Advisory Question. Taxes. To recommend (or not) a tax rebate, flat income tax, and more education spending. APPROVED 52-48*

Illinois

- *Amendment 1. Collective bargaining. Legislative proposal that creates constitutional right to collective bargaining. APPROVED 59-41*

Iowa

- *Right to Keep and Bear Arms Amendment. Legislative proposal that declares right. APPROVED 65-35*

Kansas (see also pre-November proposition)

Both proposals were legislative constitutional amendments.

- *Question 1. Agency rules. Allows legislature to suspend. APPROVED 53-47*
- *Question 2. County sheriffs. Requires their election, and allows their recall. APPROVED 62-38*

Kentucky

Both proposals were constitutional amendments from the legislature.

- *Amendment 1. Legislative sessions. Allows legislature to call. FAILED 46-54*
- *Amendment 2. Abortion. Declares that state constitution does not contain right to abortion. FAILED 48-52*

Colorado — Kentucky

STATE-BY-STATE LIST (CONTINUED)

Louisiana (see also post-November propositions)

All eight propositions were constitutional amendments placed on the ballot by the legislature.

- *Proposed Amendment 1. Investment of public funds.* Allows more investment in stocks. *FAILED 36-64*
- *Proposed Amendment 2. Property tax exemption for disabled veterans and spouses.* *APPROVED 73-37*
- *Proposed Amendment 3. Civil service employees.* Allows civil service workers to support election of their family members. *FAILED 33-67*
- *Proposed Amendment 4. Water charges.* Allows local governments to waive charges due to water damage not caused by customer. *APPROVED 75-25*
- *Proposed Amendment 5. Property taxes.* Allows local governments to increase rates temporarily. *FAILED 43-57*
- *Proposed Amendment 6. Property taxes.* Limits rate increase in Orleans parish. *FAILED 49.7-50.3*
- *Proposed Amendment 7. Slavery.* Changes exemption from slavery and involuntary servitude from punishment for a crime to "lawful administration of criminal justice ." *FAILED 39-61*
- *Proposed Amendment 8. Property taxes.* Removes requirement that disabled persons certify annually to receive exemption. *APPROVED 55-45*

Maryland

All five propositions were legislative constitutional amendments.

- *Question 1. Renames state appellate courts.* *APPROVED 75-25*
- *Question 2. Legislators.* Requires primary place of residence to be their district. *APPROVED 90-10*
- *Question 3. Trials.* Increases controversy amount for non-jury trials. *APPROVED 63-37*
- *Question 4. Legalizes marijuana.* *APPROVED 67-33*
- *Question 5. Replaces judges in Howard County Orphans' Court.* *APPROVED 67-33*

Massachusetts

Question 1 was a legislative amendment. Questions 2 and 3 were initiative statutes. Question 4 was a veto referendum.

- *Question 1. Income tax.* 4% surcharge on income over \$1 million, with revenue for education. *APPROVED 52-48*
- *Question 2. Dental insurance.* Requires refunds on "excessive" premiums. *APPROVED 72-28*
- *Question 3. Liquor sales.* Allows stores to hold more liquor licenses. *FAILED 45-55*
- *Question 4. Illegal immigrants.* To approve or repeal a law allowing drivers licenses for illegal immigrants. *APPROVED 54-46*

Michigan

All proposals were constitutional amendments, the first from the legislature, other two initiatives.

- *Proposal 22-1. Term limits.* Allows legislators to serve longer in one house but less time overall. *APPROVED 66-34*
- *Proposal 22-2. Voting.* Increases early voting, removes ID requirement, allows permanent absentee voters, requires ballot drop boxes. *APPROVED 60-40*
- *Proposal 22-3. Abortion.* Establishes right to reproductive freedom; allows limits if fetus is viable. *APPROVED 57-43*

Louisiana — Michigan

STATE-BY-STATE LIST (CONTINUED)

Missouri

Amendments 1, 4, 5 were legislative proposals. Amendment 3 was an initiative. The constitutional convention question was required by the constitution every 20 years.

- *Amendment 1. Investment of public funds.* Allows state to invest in high-grade municipal securities. *FAILED 46-54*
- *Amendment 3. Legalizes marijuana.* *APPROVED 53-47*
- *Amendment 4. Police funding.* Allows state to establish minimum funding levels. *APPROVED 63-37*
- *Amendment 5. State national guard.* Makes it a separate department. *APPROVED 60-40*
- *Constitutional Convention Question. Calls a constitutional convention.* *FAILED 32-68*

Montana

C-48 was an amendment, I-131 was a statute, both proposed by the legislature.

- *C-48. Privacy.* Provides search and seizure protection to electronic data. *APPROVED 82-18*
- *LR-131. Abortion.* Requires health care providers to help infants born alive during abortion procedure. *FAILED 48-52*

Nebraska

Amendment 1 was a legislative proposal. Initiative 432 was an amendment. Initiative 433 was a statute.

- *Proposed Amendment 1. Airports.* Allows local governments to expand commercial service at their airports. *APPROVED 79-21*
- *Initiative Measure 432. Voting.* Requires photo ID. *APPROVED 65-35*
- *Initiative Measure 433. Increases minimum wage.* *APPROVED 59-41*

Nevada

All three questions were constitutional amendments, the first two from the legislature and the last from an initiative.

- *Question 1. Civil rights.* Prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender. *APPROVED 59-41*
- *Question 2. Minimum wage.* Increases minimum wage, removes cost of living adjustments. *APPROVED 55-45*
- *Question 3. Primary elections.* Establishes top-five primary system with ranked-choice voting. (First of two required votes.) *APPROVED 53-47*

New Hampshire

The amendment was proposed by the legislature. Constitution requires the question every decade.

- *Proposed Amendment. Abolishes office of register of probate.* *APPROVED 63-37*
- *Constitutional Convention Question. Calls a constitutional convention.* *FAILED 34-66*

New Mexico

All proposals were placed on the ballot by the legislature.

- *Constitutional Amendment 1. Land grant funds.* Allows additional disbursements for education. *APPROVED 70-30*
- *Constitutional Amendment 2. Residential utilities.* Allows use of state funds to provide internet, energy, and water services. *APPROVED 65-35*

*Missouri — New
Mexico*

STATE-BY-STATE LIST (CONTINUED)

- *Constitutional Amendment 3. Interim judges.* Requires at least one year between appointment of interim judge and replacement election. *APPROVED 69-31*
- *Bond Question 1. \$24.47 million bond issue for senior citizen facilities.* *APPROVED 66-34*
- *Bond Question 2. \$19.266 million bond issue for libraries.* *APPROVED 63-37*
- *Bond Question 3. \$215.986 million bond issue for higher education and schools.* *APPROVED 61-39*

New York

- *Proposal 1. \$4.2 billion bond issue for environment and energy projects (legislative).* *APPROVED 68-32*

North Dakota

Both proposals were initiatives.

- *Constitutional Measure 1. Limits governor and legislators to two terms.* *APPROVED 63-37*
- *Statutory Measure 2. Legalizes marijuana.* *FAILED 45-55*

Ohio

Both proposals were legislative constitutional amendments.

- *Issue 1. Bail.* Requires judges to consider public safety and previous record when setting bail. *APPROVED 75-25*
- *Issue 2. Voting.* Prohibits voting by noncitizens. *APPROVED 77-23*

Oregon

Measures 111 and 112 were legislative amendments. Measure 113 was an initiative amendment. Measure 114 was an initiative statute.

- *Measure 111. Right to health care.* Requires state to provide affordable health care. *APPROVED 51-49*
- *Measure 112. Slavery.* Removes obsolete constitutional language allowing slavery as criminal punishment. *APPROVED 56-44*
- *Measure 113. Legislator absence.* Prevent legislators with many unexcused absences from running for re-election. *APPROVED 68-32*
- *Measure 114. Guns.* Requires background check, safety training, and permit fee to purchase. *APPROVED 51-49*

Rhode Island

All three bond measures were placed on the ballot by the legislature.

- *Question 1. \$100 million bonds for state university facilities.* *APPROVED 58-42*
- *Question 2. \$250 million bonds for public school facilities.* *APPROVED 73-27*
- *Question 3. \$50 million bonds for recreational and environmental projects.* *APPROVED 67-33*

South Carolina

Both proposals were placed on the ballot by the legislature.

- *Amendment 1. Increases general reserve fund from 5% to 7% of revenue.* *APPROVED 62-38*
- *Amendment 2. Increases capital reserve fund from 2% to 3% of revenue.* *APPROVED 62-38*

*New Mexico — South
Carolina*

STATE-BY-STATE LIST (CONTINUED)

South Dakota (see also pre-November proposition)

Both propositions were initiatives. Measure 27 was a statute.

- *Initiated Measure 27. Legalizes marijuana. FAILED 47-53*
- *Constitutional Amendment D. Medicare. Requires state to participate in Obamacare program. APPROVED 56-44*

Tennessee

All four proposals were placed on the ballot by the legislature.

- *Amendment 1. Right to work. Prohibits denial of employment due to nonunion membership. APPROVED 70-30*
- *Amendment 2. Governor powers. Provides for exercise of governor's powers if incapacitated. APPROVED 75-25*
- *Amendment 3. Slavery. Removes obsolete language. APPROVED 80-20*
- *Amendment 4. Allows ministers and priests to serve in legislature. APPROVED 63-37*

Texas (see pre-November propositions)

Utah

- *Emergency Sessions Appropriation Limits Amendment. Increases limit on emergency session appropriation from 1% to 5% of previous budget (legislative proposal). FAILED 36-64*

Vermont

Both proposals were constitutional amendments placed on the ballot by the legislature.

- *Proposal 2. Explicitly prohibits slavery. APPROVED 89-11*
- *Proposal 5. Abortion. Provides a right to "reproductive autonomy;" allows restrictions if compelling state interest (fetal viability). APPROVED 77-23*

Washington

These advisory votes were required by the constitution and are not binding.

- *Advisory Vote 39. Maintain or repeal a tax increase on airport fuel. REPEAL 41-59*
- *Advisory Vote 40. Maintain or repeal new tax on transportation network companies. REPEAL 48-52*

West Virginia

All four proposals were placed on the ballot by the legislature.

- *Amendment 1. Impeachment. Prohibits judges from interfering in proceedings. FAILED 42-58*
- *Amendment 2. Property taxes. Exemption for business vehicles and property. FAILED 35-65*
- *Amendment 3. Allows churches to incorporate. FAILED 45-55*
- *Amendment 4. Board of education. Allows legislature to overrule board rules. FAILED 42-58*

Wyoming

Both proposals were placed on the ballot by the legislature.

- *Constitutional Amendment A. Investment of public funds. Allows local governments to invest in stocks. APPROVED 57-43*
- *Constitutional Amendment B. Judges. Increases mandatory retirement age. FAILED 39-61*

South Dakota —
Wyoming

PRE- AND POST-NOVEMBER PROPOSITIONS

Alabama (May 24)

- *Amendment 1. \$85 M bonds for state parks and historical sites (legislative). APPROVED 77-23*

Kansas (August 2)

- *Constitutional Amendment. Abortion. Declares that state constitution does not include a right to abortion. FAILED 41-59*

Louisiana (December 10)

All three propositions were legislative constitutional amendments.

- *Proposed Amendment 1. Prohibits voting by noncitizens. APPROVED 73-27*
- *Proposed Amendment 2. Requires senate confirmation of governor's nominees to civil service commission. APPROVED 71-29*
- *Proposed Amendment 3. Requires senate confirmation of governor's nominees to police commission. APPROVED 72-28*

South Dakota (June 7)

- *Constitutional Amendment C. Requires 60% approval for constitutional amendments (legislative proposal). FAILED 33-67*

Texas (May 7)

Both propositions were constitutional amendments from the legislature.

- *Prop 1. Property tax. Allows legislature to reduce maximum tax on elderly. APPROVED 87-13*
- *Prop 2. Property tax. Increases exemption for public school purposes. APPROVED 85-15*

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