

INITIATIVE USE

December 2019

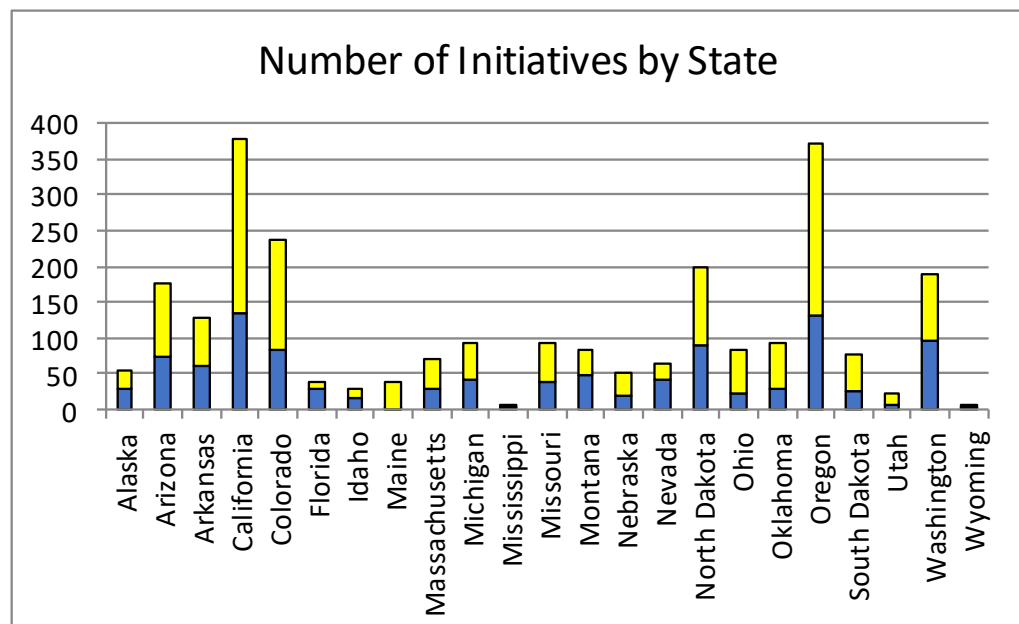
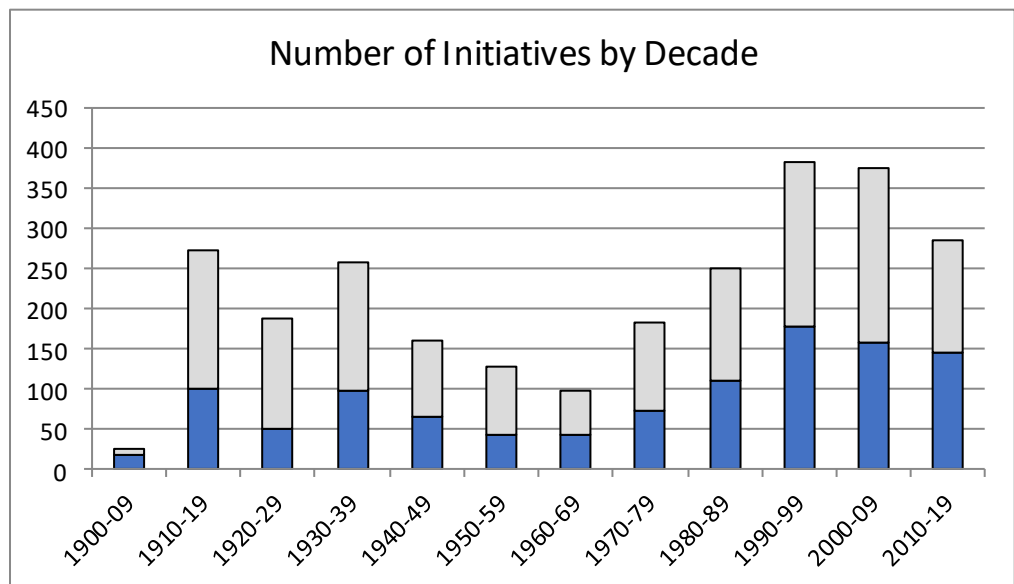
A total of 2,610 state-level initiatives have been on the ballot since the first ones went before the voters in Oregon in 1904, and 1,080 (41 percent) have been approved.

The modern initiative movement began in the late 1970s with California's tax-cutting Proposition 13. Initiative use exploded in the following decades, reaching a peak of 382 in the 1990s, 177 of which were approved. The first decade of the new century saw a total of 375 initiatives, with 158 passing. Initiative activity appears to have slowed slightly in the most recent decade.

Twenty-four states have had at least one initiative during the period 1904-2018. California has the most, with 379, followed closely by Oregon with 373, and they have an identical 35 percent approval rate. Colorado (236), North Dakota (197), and Washington (188) round out the top five.

This report summarizes state-level initiative activity during the period 1904-2019. The figures show the total number of initiatives, and (shaded) the number that were approved. A complete year-by-year count is on the second page.

OVERVIEW OF INITIATIVE USE, 1900-2019



YEAR-BY-YEAR LIST OF INITIATIVES

The information in this report is drawn from the IRI Initiatives Database. The report covers initiatives, new laws placed on the ballot by petition. It does not include popular referendums or measures placed on the ballot by the legislature.

Year	Total	Passed
1904	2	2
1906	10	7
1908	13	8
1910	34	10
1911	1	1
1912	69	27
1913	1	0
1914	89	25
1915	3	0
1916	41	12
1917	1	0
1918	32	25
1919	3	0
1920	51	19
1921	6	0
1922	42	11
1923	3	1
1924	26	6
1926	33	9
1927	2	0
1928	26	5
1930	36	8
1931	4	0
1932	70	31
1933	7	5
1934	36	14
1935	3	3
1936	40	13
1938	54	22
1939	8	1
1940	46	13
1942	16	6
1943	1	1
1944	26	8

Year	Total	Passed
1946	24	13
1947	3	1
1948	40	19
1949	5	4
1950	35	7
1952	26	10
1954	18	4
1955	1	0
1956	25	13
1957	1	0
1958	22	9
1960	22	9
1962	20	8
1964	29	14
1965	3	0
1966	10	7
1968	14	4
1970	13	3
1971	2	0
1972	37	14
1973	4	1
1974	19	15
1975	6	1
1976	46	10
1977	7	5
1978	43	23
1979	6	2
1980	40	15
1981	5	2
1982	54	23
1983	4	0
1984	41	21
1985	1	1
1986	42	18

Year	Total	Passed
1987	3	1
1988	57	27
1989	4	2
1990	64	22
1991	6	2
1992	63	32
1993	5	3
1994	71	35
1995	4	0
1996	97	44
1997	6	0
1998	61	37
1999	5	2
2000	76	33
2001	4	3
2002	51	21
2003	7	3
2004	64	35
2005	18	2
2006	79	32
2007	2	1
2008	68	26
2009	5	2
2010	46	20
2011	10	5
2012	48	20
2013	3	0
2014	35	16
2015	5	3
2016	71	47
2017	4	2
2018	63	32
2019	1	1
2020		

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