

2018 Statewide Ballot Proposals



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

This educational presentation will help you understand:

- Ballot language
- How proposals would work
- Pros and cons to consider
- Major supporters and opponents



2018 Michigan Ballot Proposals

- Three proposals placed on the ballot through citizen petitions:
 - One voter-initiated laws
 - Two constitutional amendments
- Simple majority needed to approve
 - A voter-initiated law takes effect 10 days after the official declaration of the vote
 - Approved amendments become part of the constitution 45 days after the date of the election

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a constitutional amendment?

A modification of the constitution.

Can the legislature change a constitutional amendment passed by voters?

No.

What is a citizen's initiative?

An initiative can either propose an amendment to the constitution, or create a new law.

Can the legislature change a law if passed by voters?

Yes, by three-quarter vote in each chamber.

What's on your 2018 ballot?

Proposal 18-1

Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Petition (new law)

Proposal 18-2

Voters Not Politicians Petition (amends Michigan constitution)

Proposal 18-3

Promote the Vote Petition (amends Michigan constitution)

Marijuana Legalization Initiative

Proposal 1:

A proposed initiated law to authorize and legalize possession, use and cultivation of marijuana products by individuals who are at least 21 years of age and older, and commercial sales of marijuana through state-licensed retailers.

This proposal would:

- Allow individuals 21 and older to purchase, possess and use marijuana and marijuana-infused edibles, and grow up to 12 marijuana plants for personal consumption.
- Impose a 10-ounce limit for marijuana kept at residences and require amounts over 2.5 ounces be secured in locked containers.

Marijuana Legalization Initiative

- Create a state licensing system for marijuana businesses and allow municipalities to ban or restrict them.
- Permit retail sales of marijuana and edibles subject to a 10% tax, dedicated to implementation costs, clinical trials, schools, roads, and municipalities where marijuana businesses are located.
- Change several current violations from crimes to civil infractions.

Should this proposal be adopted?

YES

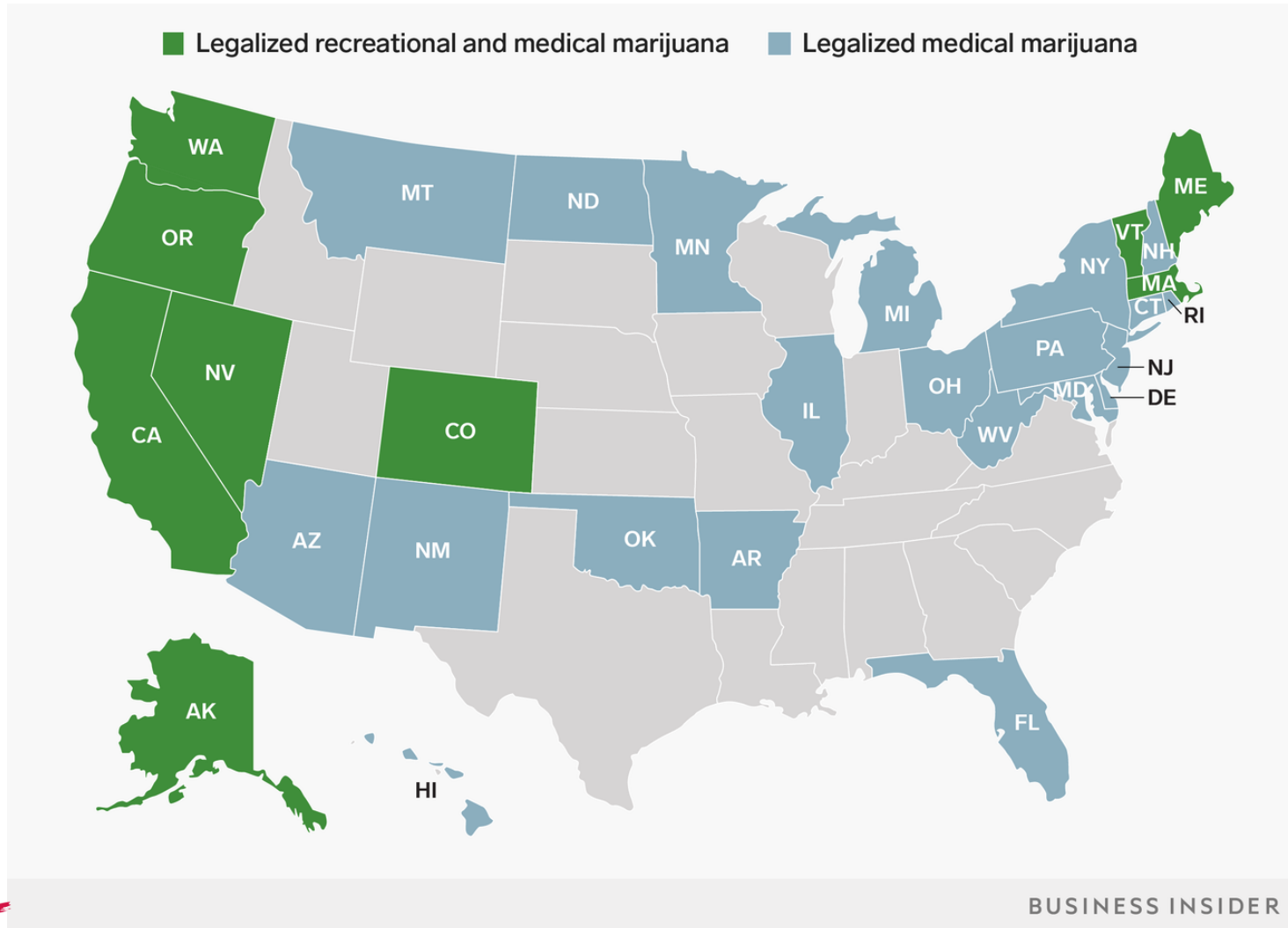
NO

How it would work

The creation of the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act would:

1. Legalize the recreational use of marijuana
2. Legalize the cultivation and sale of marijuana
3. Permit taxing revenue from commercial marijuana facilities
4. Permit creating administrative rules
5. Prescribe penalties

States where marijuana is legal



The pro side

- Sensible alternative to Michigan's failed policy of marijuana prohibition.
- Positions Michigan as a national leader in the adoption of smart adult-use marijuana laws.
- Creates state-regulated system of licensed marijuana businesses.
- Enacts an excise tax on marijuana at the retail level in addition to the standard state sales tax.

Supporters

Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol regulatemi.org

- American Civil Liberties Union
- Marijuana Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan
- Marijuana Policy Project
- MI Legalize
- Michigan Cannabis Coalition
- Michigan NORML
- National Patients Rights Association

The con side

- The recreational marijuana industry targets youth.
- Recreational marijuana makes for dangerous drivers.
- Today's marijuana is not the marijuana previous generations used.
- Recreational marijuana increases criminal activity.
- Recreational marijuana is not good for our economy.
- Creates confusion between recreational and medical marijuana regulation and taxation.

Opposing organizations

Healthy and Productive Michigan

healthyandproductivemi.org

- Committee to Keep Pot Out of Neighborhoods and Schools
- Michigan Chamber of Commerce
- Smart Approaches to Marijuana Action

Citizen Redistricting Commission

Proposal 2:

A proposed constitutional amendment to establish a commission of citizens with exclusive authority to adopt district boundaries for the Michigan Senate, Michigan House of Representatives and U.S. Congress, every 10 years.

This proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Create a commission of 13 registered voters randomly selected by the Secretary of State:
 - 4 each who self-identify as affiliated with the 2 major political parties; and
 - 5 who self-identify as unaffiliated with major political parties.

Citizen Redistricting Commission

- Prohibit partisan officeholders and candidates, their employees, certain relatives, and lobbyists from serving as commissioners.
- Establish new redistricting criteria including geographically compact and contiguous districts of equal population, reflecting Michigan's diverse population and communities of interest. Districts shall not provide disproportionate advantage to political parties or candidates.
- Require an appropriation of funds for commission operations and commissioner compensation.

Should this proposal be adopted?

YES

NO

How it would work

- A Citizens Redistricting Commission will be in charge of the redistricting process. The commission will be made up of four Democrats, four Republicans and five Independents with representation from across the state.
- Politicians, consultants and lobbyists will be banned from serving on the commission.
- The CRC is required to conduct its business in public hearings that are open to input from across the state. All proposed maps and the methodology/data to create them must be submitted as public reports. Everything — down to the variables used by the computers used to draw the maps — will be available to the public.
- The CRC is required to follow a prioritized set of criteria and standards when drawing the maps. A minimum of two Democrats, two Republicans and two Independents on the commission must approve the final maps. This prevents one political party from controlling the process.



The proposal contains process and timetables to:

- Apply for membership on commission
- Select the members of the commission
- Hold public hearings and meetings
- Use specified criteria to determine districts
- Adopt redistricting plans

The pro side

- Voters should choose their politicians, not the other way around.
- Allowing politicians to draw their own districts is a conflict of interest and it puts “the fox in charge of the henhouse.”
- When politicians have the power to draw voting maps, they have the power to hand-pick their voters.

Supporters

Advocacy Organizations:

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan
Arab American Institute
Clean Water Action
Common Cause
Democracy Initiative
Ecology Center
Independent Voting
Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice
Kalamazoo County Advocates for Senior Issues
Kent County Advocates for Senior Issues
Latino Leaders for the Enhancement of Advocacy and Development
League of Conservation Voters of Michigan
Michigan Association for Justice (formerly Michigan Trial Lawyers Association)
Michigan Election Reform Alliance
Michigan Independent Voters
Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council

Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America
Open Primaries
Peace Education Center
Progressive Women's Alliance of West Michigan PAC
Protectors of Equality in Government
Serve America Movement
Sierra Club

Labor Organizations:

American Federation of Teachers - Michigan
Michigan Nurses Association
Michigan State Utilities Worker Council
State Employees Retirees Association
United Auto Workers
United Steelworkers

Community Organizations:

Allen Neighborhood Center
Ann Arbor / Ypsilanti Regional Chamber
Association for University Women - Michigan
East Hills Council of Neighbors

Everybody Reads LLC
Garfield Park Neighborhoods Association
National Association for Campus Activities
NorthWest Initiative
People's Food Co-op of Kalamazoo
Refugee Development Center
South Lansing Community Development Association
Triple Goddess Bookstore

Faith Organizations:

Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice
Red Cedar Friends Meeting (Religious Society of Friends-Lansing)
Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing
Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Southwest Michigan
United Church of Christ, Michigan Conference



NAACP, Lansing Chapter

National Council of Jewish Women-
Metro Detroit

The con side

Jim Holcomb, executive vice president and general counsel for the Michigan Chamber of Commerce:

- “The proposed redistricting ballot proposal would drastically rewrite Michigan’s Constitution to change the basic foundation of state governing structure by removing the voice of the Governor, Legislature and Courts in the redistricting process, replacing three branches of government with a randomly drawn 13-member commission that would be unelected and unaccountable.”
- “The ballot proposal would also place an inordinate amount of power in the hands of a partisan Secretary of State, thus favoring one political party over the other and generating divisive partisanship, public discontent and distrust of the electoral process.”



Opposing organizations

Protect My Vote

A ballot question committee

No website

- Michigan Chamber of Commerce
- Michigan Republican Party

Gerrymandering Lawsuit and Prop. 2 Redistricting Commission

- The LWVMI lawsuit, set for trial in February 2019, asks the court to declare the districts that were drawn in 2011 as unconstitutional, and to require new districts be drawn. If successful, this lawsuit would affect districts for the 2020 election.
- Proposal 2, if passed in November 2018, would require the State of Michigan to take many steps starting in December 2019 to set up an Independent Citizen Redistricting Commission that would draw districts in 2021 (after the 2020 census) for districts that would be in effect for the 2022 election.
- Both the lawsuit and Proposal 2 would affect district lines for Congress, and the State's House and Senate.

Promote the Vote

Proposal 3:

A proposal to authorize automatic and Election Day voter registration, no-reason absentee voting, and straight ticket voting; and add current legal requirements for military and overseas voting and postelection audits to the Michigan Constitution.

This proposed constitutional amendment would allow a United States citizen who is qualified to vote in Michigan to:

- Become automatically registered to vote when applying for, updating or renewing a driver's license or state-issued personal identification card, unless the person declines.

Promote the Vote

- Simultaneously register to vote with proof of residency and obtain a ballot during the 2-week period prior to an election, up to and including Election Day.
- Obtain an absent voter ballot without providing a reason.
- Cast a straight-ticket vote for all candidates of a particular political party when voting in a partisan general election.

Should this proposal be adopted?

YES

NO

How it would work

Amendment to the Michigan Constitution provides a common-sense approach to safeguarding our elections, puts voters first, and removes barriers for working families by:

1. Protect the right to vote a secret ballot.
2. Ensure military service members and overseas voters get their ballots in time for their votes to count.
3. Provide voters with the option to vote straight party.
4. Automatically register citizens to vote at the Secretary of State's office unless the citizen declines.
5. Allow a citizen to register to vote anytime with proof of residency.
6. Provide all registered voters access to an absentee ballot for any reason for 40 days prior to election.
7. Ensure the accuracy and integrity of elections by auditing election results.



The pro side

- Every eligible person can vote and every vote will count.
- Makes voting accessible, secure and fair.
- Allows for the democracy to better serve all Americans and for the laws to better reflect the will of the people.
- Everyone – Republicans, Democrats and Independents – deserve to have their vote secure and counted.



Source: *promotethevotemi.com*

Supporters

Coalition members are ACLU, LWVMI, MI League for Public Policy, NAACP Detroit, NAACP Michigan (promotethevote.com)

Aaron Stephens, East Lansing City Council*

Ahmad Chebbani

Amanda Van Dusen, Esq.

Ann Doyle

Barbara McQuade, former U.S. Attorney, University of Michigan Law School*

Bill Wood, West Michigan Environmental Action Council*

Bruce and Dale Frankel

Carlos Sanchez

Carmella Sabaugh, former Macomb County Clerk

Carolyn Cassin, Michigan Women's Foundation*

Chase L. Cantrell, Esq.

Cynthia Ford

Dave Bulkowski

Denise Ilitch

Dennis Van Kampen

Detroit Chamber of Commerce

Dug and Linh Song, Duo Security*

Erica Peresman, Esq.+

Ethan and Gretchen Davidson

Eva Garza Dewaelsche, SER Metro Detroit*

Faye Nelson

Florine Mark, Weight Watchers*

Gerry Brisson, Gleaners Community Food Bank*

Gilda Jacobs, Michigan League for Public Policy+

Hassan Jaber, ACCESS*

Hassan Sheikh, Emgage Michigan*

Henry Grix and Howard Israel

Hon. Carl Levin

Ines De Jesus+

Ismael Ahmed+

James Brady

James Liggins, Miller Canfield*

James Murray

Jamie and Denise Jacob, Ajax Paving*

Jewish Community Relations Council/American Jewish Committee

Jim Shimura

Jimmy Greene, Associated Builders and Contractors, Leadership Saginaw*

Joe Malcoun and Caitlin Klein, Nutshell*, Co-Chair, Honorary Committee

JoElyn and George Nyman

Jon Carlson, 3MISSION*, and Frances Carlson, Esq.

Judy Karandjeff, League of Women Voters of Michigan+

Kary L. Moss, American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan+

Kate Pew Wolters

Kristie and Mike Martin, First Martin Corporation*

Lacy Dawson, Michigan Voice*



Supporters

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Washtenaw
County Clerk/Register of Deeds

Lisa and Hannan Lis

Lisa Wozniak, League of Conservation
Voters*

Lois Cohn

Marge Palmerlee

Mayor Jim Carruthers, City of Traverse City

Mayor Mike Duggan, City of Detroit

Mayor Rosalynn Bliss, City of Grand
Rapids

Megan Fenkell, Denise and Jamie Jacob
Foundation*

Melissa Gilbert

Michael Staebler

Michigan Education Association

Michigan State Employee Retirees
Association Executive Committee

Nadine Yousif, CODE Legal Aid*

Nancy and Arn Tellem

Nancy Quarles, PhD

Nasser Beydoun, Arab-American Civil
Rights League+

National Council of Jewish Women,
Michigan

Neal Elyakin

Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of
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Phoebe Hopps

Professor Sam Bagenstos

Progressive Women's Alliance of West
Michigan PAC (PWA)

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Committee

Reggie Turner, Esq.

Rev. Wendell Anthony, NAACP Detroit+

Rodd Gillum, Jackson Lewis PC*

Roland Hwang, Association of Chinese
Americans*

Shauna Ryder Diggs, M.D.

Shelley Padnos and Carol Sarosik,
Padnos*

Shirley Stancato, New Detroit*

Sierra Club, Michigan Chapter

Stan and Kim Van Gundy

Stephanie Moore, Kalamazoo County
Commissioner

Stephanie White, Equality Michigan*

Stuart Ray

Sumaiya Ahmed Sheikh, Michigan Muslim
Community Council*

Susan E. Reed, Michigan Immigrant Rights
Center*

Teola Hunter

The Democracy Initiative

Tiffany Douglas

Tom Allen, Student – University of Michigan
Law

Urban League of West Michigan

Warren C. Evans, Wayne County Executive

Wayne State Student Senate

Wendy Verhage Falb, PhD

Wisam Naoum, Esq., Chaldean American
Bar Association*

Yvonne White, NAACP, Michigan State
Conference+



The con side

While the proposal seemingly has some good parts like secret ballots, post-election audits and helping military personnel cast ballots, those items are already written into law and their inclusion in this proposal serves only to mislead voters about its true purpose.

Vote NO on Proposal 3.



Source: Protect My Vote

Opposing organizations

Protect My Vote

A ballot question committee

No website

Election information

- Use **VOTE411.org** for election information and to check your registration.
- Absentee ballots available on Saturday, Sept. 22.
- Last day for registering is Tuesday, Oct. 9.
- Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 6.
- Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- You may not vote a straight party ticket in the partisan section of the ballot.
- Remember to vote for proposals in the non-partisan section.



What's different on your ballot?

On the 2018 ballot, the straight-ticket voting option is not available.

OFFICIAL BALLOT		
General Election		
Tuesday, November X, 20XX		
Somewhere County, Michigan		
Sample Township, Precinct 1		
Partisan Section	Legislative	State Boards
Straight Party Ticket <i>Vote for not more than 1</i>	State Senator 37th District <i>Vote for not more than 1</i>	Governor of Wayne State University <i>Vote for not more than 2</i>
Republican Party <input type="radio"/>	Republican Candidate Republican <input type="radio"/>	Republican Candidate Republican <input type="radio"/>
Democratic Party <input type="radio"/>	Democratic Candidate Democrat <input type="radio"/>	Republican Candidate Republican <input type="radio"/>
Libertarian Party <input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Democratic Candidate Democrat <input type="radio"/>
U.S. Taxpayers Party <input type="radio"/>	Representative in State Legislature 109th District <i>Vote for not more than 1</i>	Democratic Candidate Democrat <input type="radio"/>
Green Party <input type="radio"/>	Republican Candidate Republican <input type="radio"/>	Libertarian Candidate Libertarian <input type="radio"/>
Natural Law Party <input type="radio"/>	Democratic Candidate Democrat <input type="radio"/>	U.S. Taxpayers Candidate U.S. Taxpayers <input type="radio"/>
Working Class Party <input type="radio"/>		Green Candidate Green <input type="radio"/>

Questions?

League of Women Voters of Michigan Education Fund

Visit lwvmi.org for more information

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