

BALLOT MEASURES

Ballot measures (propositions) reach the ballot in a number of different ways. They are:

Legislative Constitutional Amendment (LCA)

An LCA is an amendment to the state constitution proposed by the Legislature. It must be adopted in each house of the Legislature by a two-thirds vote of the membership; it does not require the Governor's signature to be placed on the ballot. Once it has been adopted by the Legislature and chaptered by the Secretary of State, the measure is placed on the next statewide ballot that occurs at least 131 days from the date of chaptering.

Legislative Bond Measure

Any bill calling for the issuance of general obligation bonds must be adopted in each house of the Legislature by a two-thirds vote of the membership, and signed by the Governor (or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature). It is subject to the 131-day qualification deadline.

Initiative

The initiative allows citizens to propose statutes, amendments to the state constitution or general obligation bond measures for voter approval or rejection. To qualify for the ballot, an initiative statute requires the signatures of registered voters equal in number to 5% of the votes cast for all candidates for governor in the last election; an initiative constitutional amendment requires signatures equaling 8% of the gubernatorial vote. Initiatives are also subject to the 131-day qualification deadline. Any measure that qualifies after that deadline is placed on the next ensuing statewide ballot.

Referendum

The referendum gives citizens the ability to approve or reject statutes adopted by the Legislature, except those that are urgency, that call for elections, or that provide for tax levies/appropriations for usual current expenses of the state. Citizens wishing to block implementation of a legislatively adopted statute must gather, within 90 days of enactment of the bill, signatures equal in number to at least 5% of the votes cast for all candidates for governor in the last gubernatorial election. A qualified referendum is placed on the ballot at a statewide election that occurs at least 31 days after the measure qualifies, or at a special election called by the Governor. The Legislature may amend or repeal referendum statutes.

Initiative Amendment

Unless an initiative specifically allows for legislative amendment of its provisions, the Legislature must submit any amendment it proposes to a vote of the people. A legislative initiative amendment requires only a majority vote of each house, unless otherwise specified in the initiative, and must be signed by the Governor or allowed to become law without his/her signature. The 131-day qualification deadline applies. An initiative amendment may also be proposed by another initiative.

All statewide measures require a simple majority for passage.

State ballot measures are numbered consecutively in ten-year cycles; the current cycle began with the eleven measures on the November 1998 general election ballot.