

Initiatives: A Brief History

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NOCALL Spring Institute
April 9, 2011



In the beginning:

1898



In the beginning:

1911

CHAPTER 22.

Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 22, a resolution to propose to the people of the State of California an amendment to the constitution of said state, by amending section 1 of article 4 thereof, relating to legislative powers, and reserving to the people of the State of California the power to propose laws, statutes and amendments to the constitution and to enact the same at the polls, independent of the legislature, and also reserving to the people of the State of California the power to approve or reject at the polls any act or section or part of any act of the legislature.

[Filed with Secretary of State February 20, 1911.]

Today - Initiatives

The initiative is the power of the electors to propose statutes and amendments to the Constitution and to adopt or reject them....

....An initiative measure that has more than one subject may not be submitted to the electors or have any effect.

(Cal. Const., Art. 2, § 8)

And the Referendum

The referendum is the power of the electors to approve or reject statutes or parts of statutes except urgency statutes, statutes calling elections, and statutes providing for tax levies or appropriations for usual current expenses of the State.

(Cal. Const., Art. 2, § 9)

Data from the California Initiative Process: Background and Perspective, Fred J. Silva (2000) (http://www.ppica.org/content/pubs/op/OP_1100FSOP.pdf)

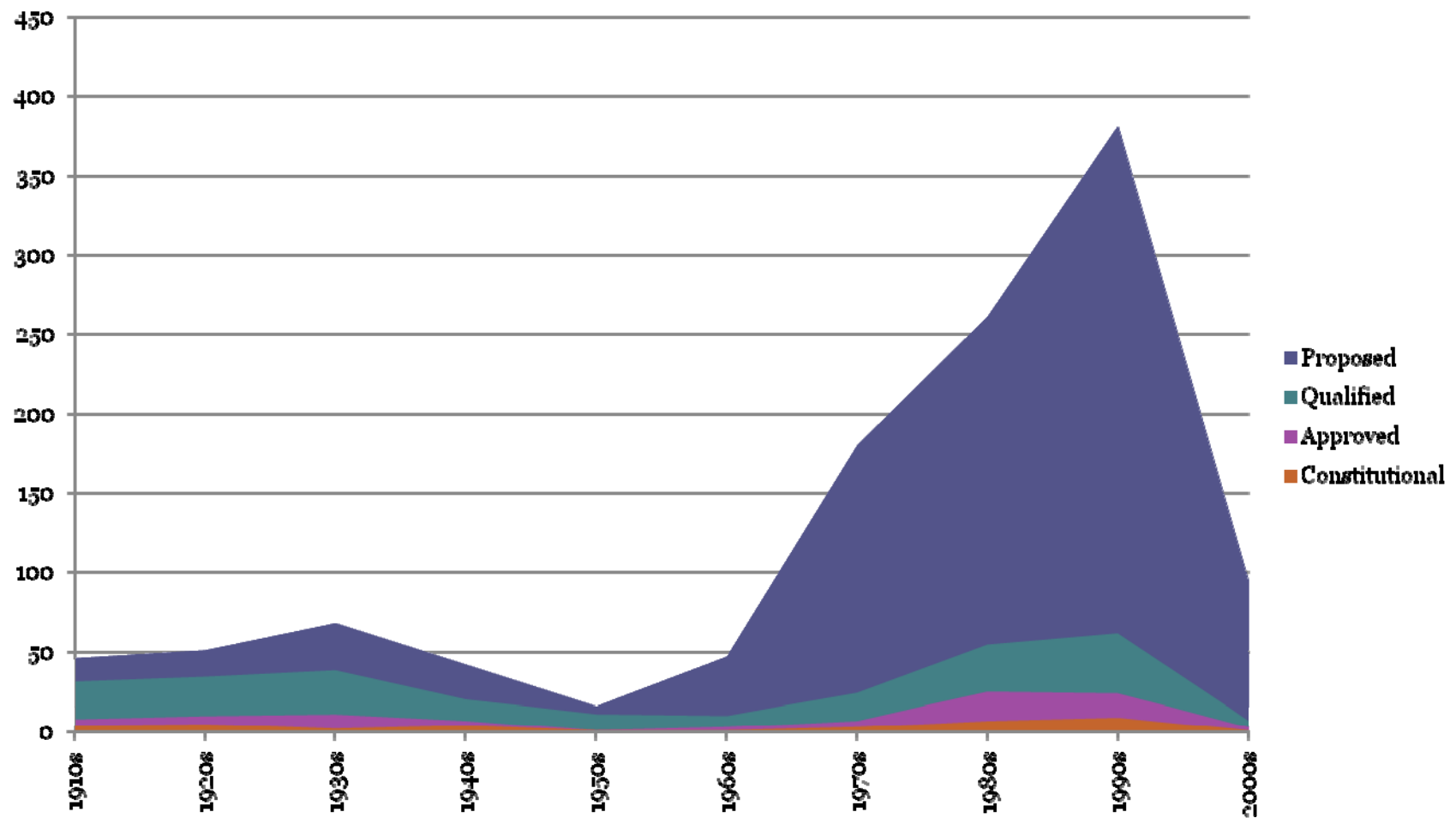
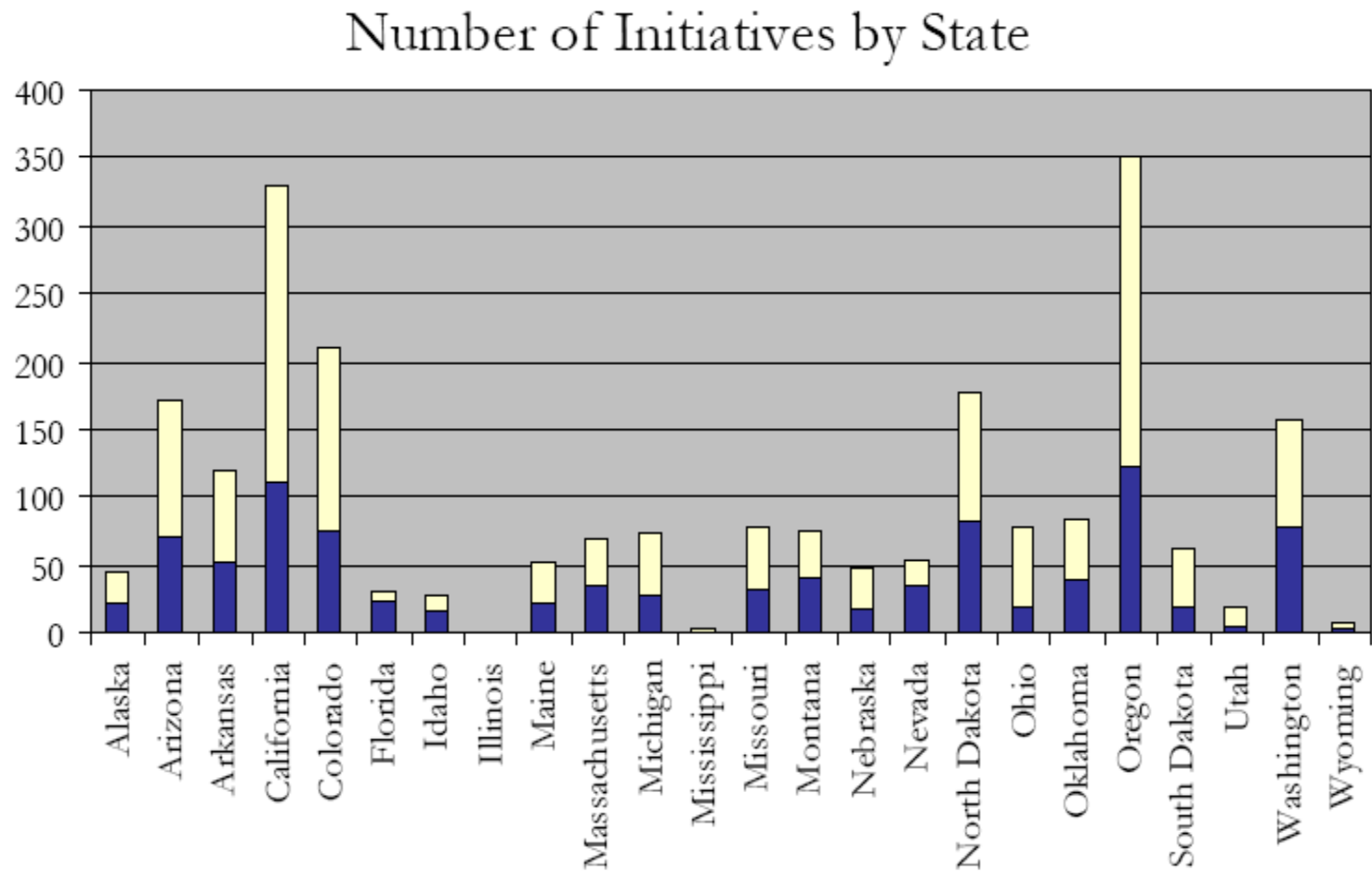
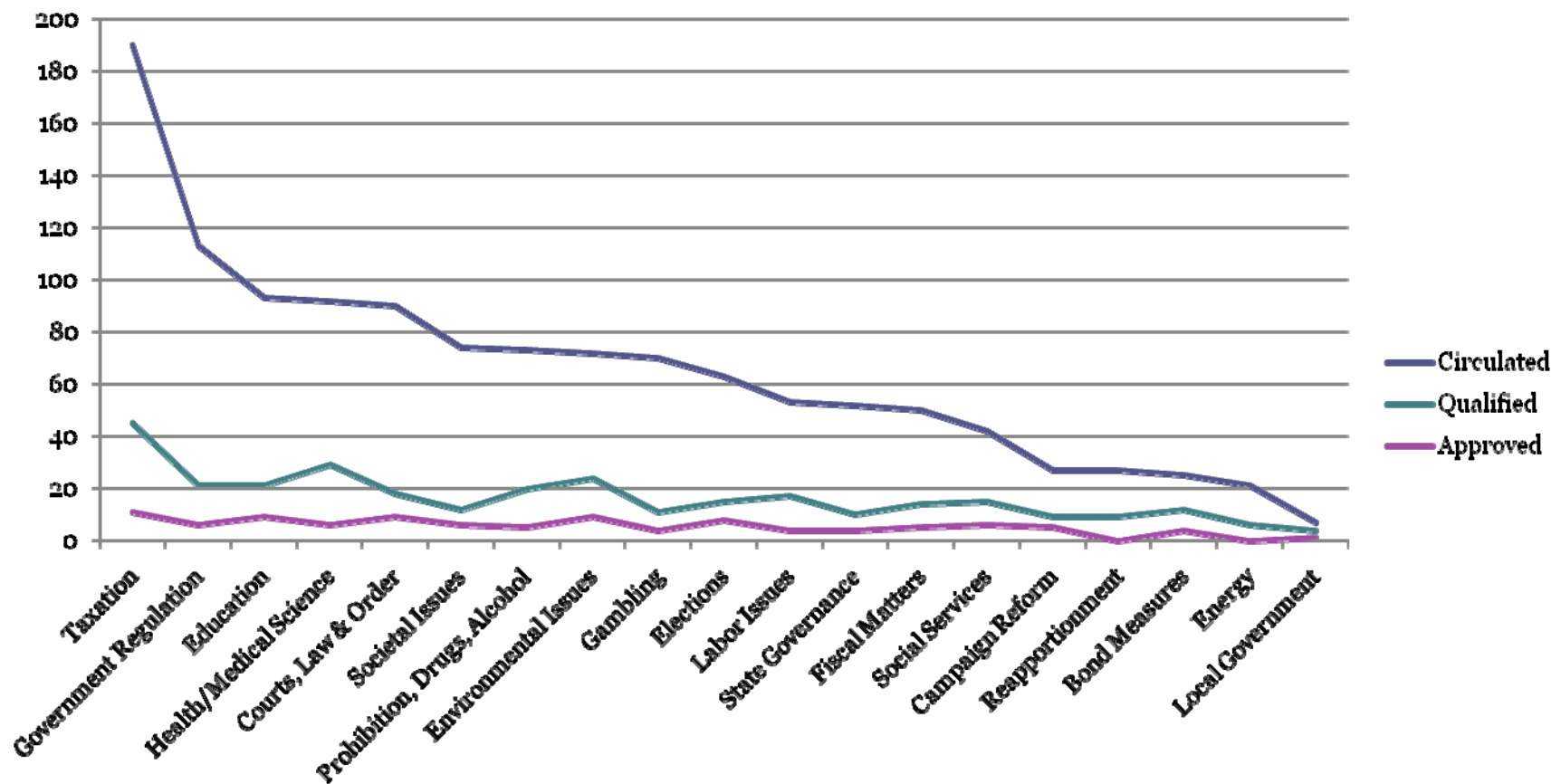


Chart courtesy of the Initiative and Referendum Institute

September 2010 (<http://www.iandrinstitute.org/IRI%20Initiative%20Use%20%282010-1%29.pdf>)



Data from the California Initiative Process: Background and Perspective, Fred J. Silva (2000) (http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/op/OP_1100FSOP.pdf)



Researching Initiatives:

@ Hastings!



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<http://library.uchastings.edu/library/>



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Before You Start

Background Information

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**Part II: Additional Sources for
California Legislative History**

Statutory Construction

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How to Compile a California Legislative History

Before You Start

California legislative history is scattered in various sets of books, on microfiche, and in online sources. [Part I](#) of this guide outlines seven steps to finding the legislative history of a statute. [Part II](#) of this guide lists additional resources you might find helpful in providing information about legislative intent. Finally, this guide includes a brief discussion of [statutory construction](#).

Background Information

After a law is passed, questions often arise about the meaning of the legislation. In order to determine how a law is to be interpreted, the courts and the legal community are left to determine the intent of the legislature when they passed the law. To determine legislative intent, it may be necessary to compile a legislative history of a law. While this can be very useful in determining intent, it can also be very frustrating because of the lack of published hearings and the cursory nature of many of the published legislative reports and bill summaries.

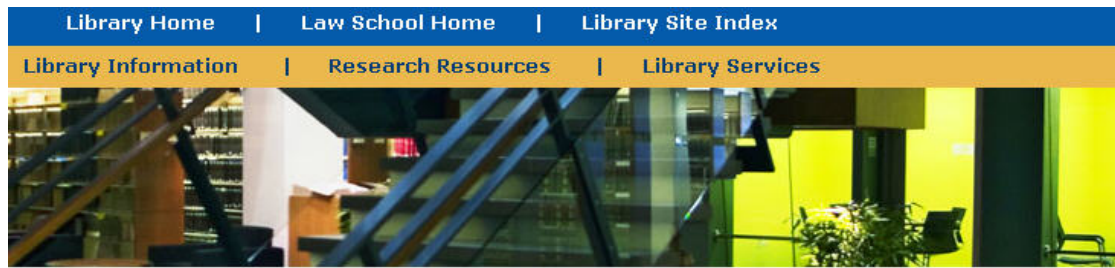
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Part I: A Seven-Step Guide to Basic Legislative History Search

1. Look at the Law in the Annotated Codes

Find and note the session law chapter numbers, given at the end of the code section. An example is "Added by Stats.1978 c. 458 1," which means the statute first appeared in *Statutes and Amendments to the Code* 1978, chapter 458, section 1.

West's Annotated California Codes (KFC30.5W4 4th Floor Stacks & Reference Desk) and *Deering's California Codes Annotated* (KFC30.5D4 - 4th Floor Stacks) provide the current



Library > California Research > California Ballot Measures Databases

California Ballot Measures Databases

The [California Ballot Propositions Database](#) is a comprehensive, searchable source of information on California ballot propositions from 1911 to 2003 (partial information for 2004). The database contains the full text of the propositions, accompanying material contained in the ballot pamphlets, related legal and legislative history, and digital images of the ballot pamphlets. The database was made possible in part by a grant from the LSTA program. [PDF images of pamphlets](#). (Images of individual ballot measures and the text of more recent ballot measures are current through 2008).

[California Ballot Initiatives Database](#) - A comprehensive, searchable source of information on California ballot initiatives from 1911 to 2000. The database contains the full text of the initiatives, accompanying material relating to their filing & qualification, related legal and legislative history, and digital images of pertinent documents. The database was made possible in part by a grant from the LSTA program.

[A History of California Initiatives: December 2002](#) The Secretary of State has made available online an historical study and statistical analysis of California initiative measures from 1912 to 2002.

[California Attorney General Official Website](#) For current information and full text of Initiatives (2004- current).

[California Secretary of State Official Website](#) For current information and full text of Propositions (1996- current).



California Ballot Propositions (1911-present)

[Help](#)

Keywords:

☐ AND ☒ OR ☐ NOT

Proposition No.:

Limit by years from: through:

Limit by pass/fail status: ☒ ALL ☐ Passed ☐ Failed

Records retrieved: 5

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Back to Search

Back to Menu

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Display Selections

Clear Selections

Year sorted table

▼

Display

Retrieved 5 records. Displaying items 1 - 5.

Retrieved Propositions sorted by year

Select	Year	Prop. No.	Title	Pass/Fail	Summary	See More
<input type="checkbox"/>	1990 general	130	Forest Acquisition. Timber Harvesting Practices. Bond Act.	Fail	<div><div>. Authorizes 10-year state acquisition program, limited logging moratorium, to permit public acquisition of designated ancient forests providing wildlife habitat.</div><div>. Requires wildlife surveys, mitigation measures. Limits logging sites, including those near waterways.</div><div>. Requires state-funded compensation, retraining program for loggers displaced by new regulations, acquisitions.</div><div>. Authorizes general obligation bond issue of \$742,000,000 to fund acquisition, other provisions.</div><div>. Limits timber cutting practices, burning of forest residues, on California timberlands.</div><div>. Mandates sustained yield standards.</div><div>. Imposes new timber harvesting permit fees.</div><div>. Revises Board of Forestry membership.</div><div>. Discourages foreign export of forest products. Imposes penalties for violations.</div><div>Summary of Legislative Analyst's Estimate of Net State and Local Government Fiscal Impact:</div></div>	<div>More</div>



[Library](#) > [California Research](#) > [Ballots](#)

California Ballot Propositions

[California Ballot Propositions Database](#) - This is a database containing pdf images of individual ballot measures. This is an ongoing project and new images are constantly being added. **These files contain the entire Ballot Pamphlet so they tend to be rather LARGE, up to 19mb.**

[A History of California Initiatives: December 2002](#) - The Secretary of State has made available online an historical study and statistical analysis of California initiative measures from 1912 to 2002.

2009

[2009 Special Election \[Proposition #s 1A-1F\] \(May 19, 2009\)](#)

Prior elections:

2008

[General Election Supplemental \[Proposition #s 1A\] \(November 4, 2008\)](#)

[General Election \[Proposition #s 1-12\] \(November 4, 2008\)](#)

[Primary Election \[Proposition #s 98-99\] \(June 3, 2008\)](#)

[Primary Election Supplemental \[Proposition #s 94-97\] \(February 5 2008\)](#)

[Primary Election \[Proposition #s 91-93\] \(February 5, 2008\)](#)

2006

[General Election Supplemental Ballot Pamphlet \[Proposition #s 189-191\] \(November 8, 1994\)](#)

[General Election Ballot Pamphlet \[Proposition #s 181-188\] \(November 8, 1994\)](#)

[Primary Election Ballot Pamphlet \[Proposition #s 175-180\] \(June 7, 1994\)](#)

[Primary Election Supplemental Ballot Pamphlet \[Proposition #s 1A, 1B, 1C\] \(June 7, 1994\)](#)

1993

[Special Election Ballot Pamphlet \[Proposition #s 168-174\] \(November 2, 1993\)](#)

1992

[General Election Ballot Pamphlet \[Proposition #s 155-167\] \(November 3, 1992\)](#)

[Primary Election Ballot Pamphlet \[Proposition #s 152-154\] \(June 2, 1992\)](#)

1990

[General Election Supplemental Ballot Pamphlet \[Proposition #s 141-151\] \(November 6, 1990\)](#)

[General Election Ballot Pamphlet \[Proposition #s 124-140\] \(November 6, 1990\)](#)

[Primary Election Supplemental Ballot Pamphlet \[Proposition #s 122,123\] \(June 5, 1990\)](#)

[Primary Election Ballot Pamphlet \[Proposition #s 107-121\] \(June 5, 1990\)](#)

1988

[General Election Ballot Pamphlet \[Proposition #s 78-106\] \(November 8, 1988\)](#)

[Primary Election Ballot Pamphlet \[Proposition #s 66-77\] \(June 7, 1988\)](#)

1986

[General Election Ballot Pamphlet \[Proposition #s 53-65\] \(November 4, 1986\)](#)

[Primary Election Ballot Pamphlet \[Proposition #s 42-52\] \(June 3, 1986\)](#)



California Ballot Initiatives (1912-present)

[Help](#)

Keywords: [All Fields in Record](#)

☐ AND ☒ OR ☐ NOT

Keywords: [All Fields in Record](#)

☐ AND ☒ OR ☐ NOT

Secretary of State #: [# List](#)

☐ AND ☒ OR ☐ NOT

Attorney General #: [# List](#) [Help](#)

Limit by years from: through:

Limit by qualified for ballot: ☒ All Initiatives ☐ Qualified ☐ Failed to Qualify, Withdrawn, Amended, etc.

Records retrieved: 0

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Ballot Measures

There are two ways a measure can be placed on the ballot.

- The Legislature has the ability to place constitutional amendments, bond measures, and proposed changes in law on the ballot.
- Any California voter can put an initiative or a referendum on the ballot by following the "[How to Qualify an Initiative](#) process."

A statewide ballot measure can be approved by a majority vote of the people. Certain local ballot measures require approval by a 55% or a two-thirds vote of the electorate.

[Qualified Statewide Ballot Measures](#)

[Initiative and Referendum Qualification Status](#)

[How to Qualify an Initiative](#)

[Referenda](#)

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[Official Voter Information Guide for November 2, 2010, General Election](#)

[Initiative Proposals Pending Review By Attorney General](#)

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Qualified Statewide Ballot Measures

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The following is a list of measures that have qualified for the ballot. For those measures that are currently attempting to qualify, see the [Initiative and Referendum Qualification Status](#) page.

For information on the campaign committees that have organized to support or oppose propositions and ballot measures on the statewide ballot, see the [Propositions and Ballot Measures Campaign Finance Activity](#) page.

November 2010 Statewide Ballot Measure

Proposition 18

Bond Measure

SBx7 2. (Chapter 3, 2009), Cogdill

[Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2010](#)

Proposition 19

Initiative Statute

1377. (09-0024. Amdt. #1S) - [Final Random Sample Update - 03/24/10](#)

Changes California Law to Legalize Marijuana and Allow It to Be Regulated and Taxed.

Qualified: 03/24/10

Proponents: Richard Seib Lee and Jeffrey Wayne Jones (510) 208-4554

Allows people 21 years old or older to possess, cultivate, or transport marijuana for personal use. Permits local governments to regulate and tax commercial production and sale of marijuana to people 21 years old or older. Prohibits people from possessing marijuana on school grounds, using it in public, smoking it while minors are present, or providing it to anyone under 21 years old. Maintains current prohibitions against driving while impaired. Summary of

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Voter Information Guides

For each measure placed on the ballot, the Voter Information Guide contains a great deal of useful information for voters. Each measure in the guide is accompanied by an impartial analysis of the proposal and the potential costs to taxpayers as prepared by the Legislative Analyst's Office, arguments in favor and against it prepared by proponents and opponents, the text and a summary prepared by the Attorney General or the Legislature, as well as other information.

- [June 8, 2010 - Statewide Direct Primary Election](#)
- [May 19, 2009 - Statewide Special Election](#)
- [November 4, 2008 - Presidential General Election](#)
- [June 3, 2008 - Statewide Direct Primary Election](#)
- [February 5, 2008 - Presidential Primary Election](#)
- [November 7, 2006 - General Election](#)
- [June 6, 2006 - Gubernatorial Primary Election](#)
- [November 8, 2005 - Special Statewide Election](#)
- [November 2, 2004 - Presidential General Election](#)
- [March 2, 2004 - Presidential Primary Election](#)
- [October 7, 2003 - Statewide Special Election](#)