

Ballot Measures and Initiatives

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. You can find more information about this process along with forms and resources on the California Secretary of State's office at <http://www.sos.ca.gov>

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.

Resources and Historical Information

History of California Initiatives

This study of initiatives from 1912 through 2010 by the Secretary of State's office offers a concise history of initiatives and the initiative process. The data contained here is arranged several ways in order to accommodate various research perspectives and goals.

Hastings College of the Law Databases

University of California Hastings College of the Law maintains a comprehensive, searchable database of information on California ballot initiatives and propositions from 1911 to the present. The Hastings site also offers PDF versions of ballot pamphlets from 1911 to the present.

County, City, School District & Ballot Measure Election Results

Following each local election cycle, the California Elections Data Archive (CEDA) collects and compiles results from city, county, school district, and local ballot measure elections.

Reports on County and Municipal Initiative Measures

County elections officials and municipal legislative bodies are required to file a report with the Secretary of State in each odd-odd-numbered year that contains information regarding measures placed on the ballot by the citizen initiative process.