

# LWVMI EF Educational Presentation 2018 Statewide Ballot Proposals: What Are They? What Would They Do?



## **Educational presentation on 2018 State Ballot Proposals**

- Ballot language and how proposals would work
- Pros and Cons provided by major supporters and opponents
- LWV not responsible for views or facts of groups



# Overview of Presentation

## 2018 MI Ballot Proposals

3 proposals, placed on the ballot, through citizen petitions:

--1 voter-initiated law

--2 constitutional amendments

- Simple majority 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

# Can the Legislature Change a Constitutional Amendment Passed by Voters?

No

Can the Legislature Change a Law if Passed by Voters?

YES by  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote in each house.

# 2018 BALLOT PROPOSALS:

## Proposal 18-1

Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Petition (New Law)

## Proposal 18-2

Voters Not Politicians Petition (Amends MI Constitution)

## Proposal 18-3

Promote the Vote Petition (Amends MI Constitution)

**Proposal 18-1** 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:

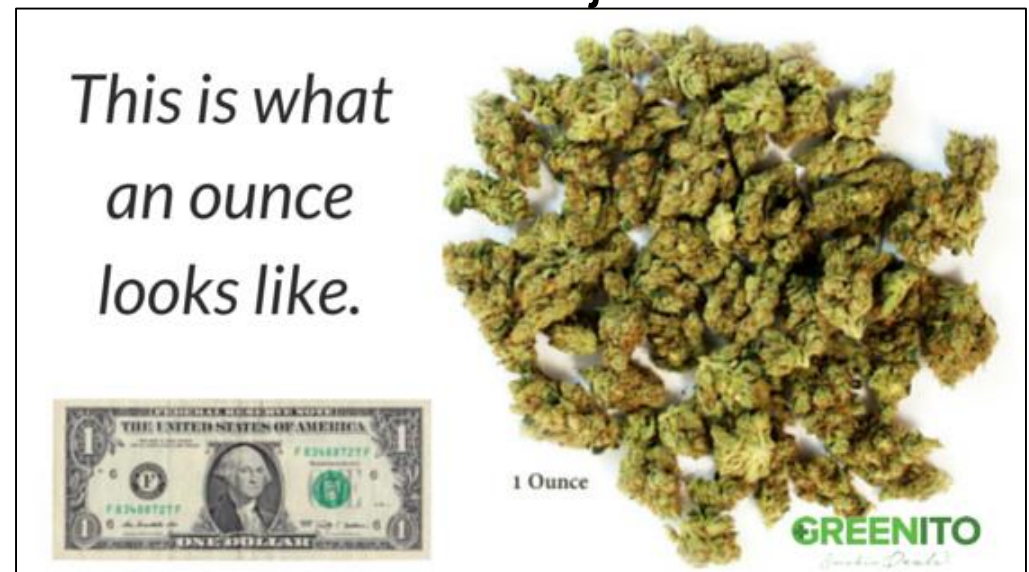
- Allow individuals 21 and older to purchase, possess and use marijuana and marijuana-infused edibles, and grow up to 12 marijuana plants for personal consumption.
- Impose a 10-ounce limit for marijuana kept at residences and require amounts over 2.5 ounces be secured in locked containers.
- Create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

Should this proposal be adopted?  YES  NO

# What does the proposal do?

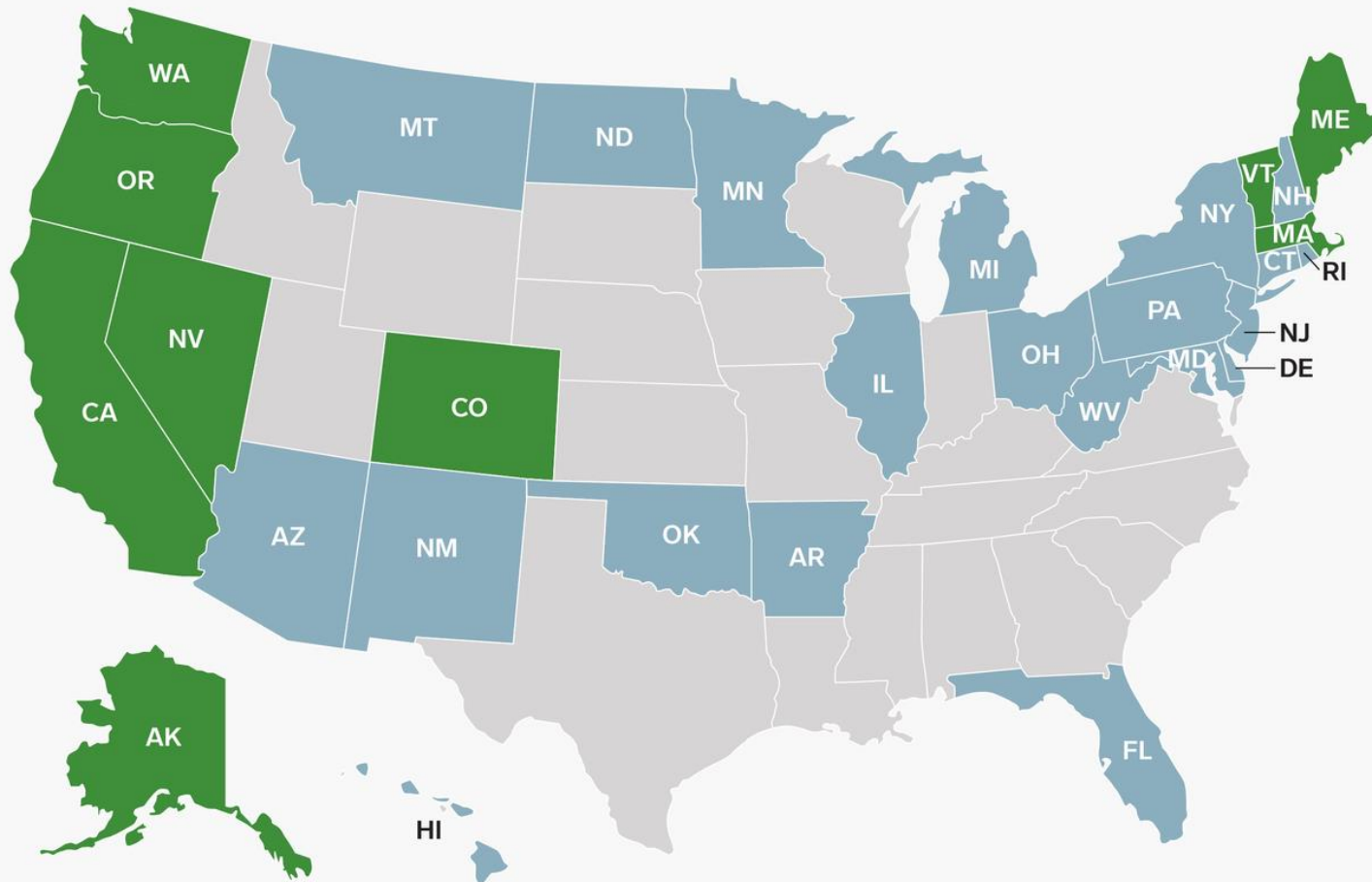
## Creates the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act that would:

1. Legalize recreational use of marijuana.
2. Legalize 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

■ Legalized recreational and medical marijuana   ■ Legalized medical marijuana





## Summary by the supporters:

- “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.”

Source: Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol

[www.regulatemi.org](http://www.regulatemi.org)

# Who Supports?

Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol

<https://www.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

## Summary by the opponents:

### Why Legalized Recreational Marijuana is Bad for Michigan

- The recreational marijuana industry targets our youth
- Recreational marijuana makes for dangerous drivers
- Today's marijuana is not marijuana your parents used
- Recreational marijuana increases criminal activity
- There are better alternatives to recreational marijuana legalization
- Recreational marijuana is not good for our economy

Source: Healthy and Productive Michigan

<http://healthyandproductivemi.org>

# Who Opposes?

Healthy and Productive Michigan

<http://healthyandproductivemi.org>

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

**Proposal 18-2** 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.
- 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

# What does the proposal do?

## Amends the MI Constitution to do the following:

- A Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) will be in charge of the redistricting process. The Commission will be made up of 4 Democrats, 4 Republicans, and 5 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 2 Democrats, 2 Republicans, and 2 Independents on the Commission must approve the final maps. This prevents one political party from controlling the process.

Source: Voters Not Politicians [www.votersnotpoliticians.com](http://www.votersnotpoliticians.com)

The proposal contains process and timetables to:

1. Apply for Membership on Commission
2. Select the Members of the Commission
3. Hold Public Hearings and Meetings
4. Use Specified Criteria to Determine Districts
5. Adopt Redistricting Plans

## Summary by the supporters:

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.

Source: [www.votersnotpoliticians.com](http://www.votersnotpoliticians.com)



# Who Supports?

## VOTERS NOT POLITICIANS

[www.votersnotpoliticians.com](http://www.votersnotpoliticians.com)

### A coalition of individuals

Endorsed by

#### Advocacy Organizations:

- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) 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
- League of Women Voters of Michigan
- Michigan Association for Justice, formerly the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association
- Michigan Election Reform Alliance
- Michigan Independent Voters
- Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council
- NAACP, Lansing Chapter
- National Council of Jewish Women-Metro Detroit Section
- 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 (ICPJ)
- Red Cedar Friends Meeting (Religious Society of Friends-Lansing)
- Unitarian Universalist Church Of Greater Lansing
- Unitarian Universalist Community Church (UCC) of Southwest Michigan
- United Church of Christ, Michigan Conference

## Summary by the opponents:

“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.”

*Quotes from Jim Holcomb, Executive Vice President & General Counsel for the Michigan Chamber, July 9, 2018*

MI Chamber Press Release <https://www.michamber.com/chamber-sets-record-straight-debate-our-redistricting-ballot-proposal>

# Who Opposes?

Protect My Vote  
(no website yet)

- MI Chamber of Commerce
- MI Republican Party

**Proposal 18-3** 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 post-election 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.
- 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

## What does the proposal do?

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.

Source: Promote the Vote <https://promotethevotemi.com/>

## Summary by the supporters:

Every eligible person can vote and every vote will count.

MAKE VOTING ACCESSIBLE, SECURE, and FAIR.

So our democracy will better serve all Americans and our laws will better reflect the will of the people.

Everyone – Republicans, Democrats and Independents – deserves to have their vote secure and counted.

Source: Promote the Vote <https://promotethevotemi.com/>

# Who Supports?

**Promote the Vote [www.promotethevote.com](http://www.promotethevote.com),  
Coalition members are ACLU, LWVMI, MI League for  
Public Policy, NAACP Detroit, NAACP Michigan**

## Endorsed by:

- 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\*
- 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 America
- Noreen K. Myers, Esq.
- Paul Brown, ELab Ventures\*
- Peter Karmanos
- Phoebe Hopps
- Professor Sam Bagenstos
- Progressive Women's Alliance of West Michigan PAC (PWA)
- Rachel Bendit Esq., Co-Chair, Honorary 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+



# Summary by the opposition:

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*

# Who Opposes?

Protect My Vote – a ballot question committee.

No website or facebook page

# Election Information

- Use [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org) for election information and to check your registration
- NO straight-party option – proposals are last thing listed (on back of ballot)
- Absentee ballots – get one up until Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - “Absent from the community on election day”
- REMINDER: the ballot this year is lengthy – account for lines, extra time spent in the booth
- Election day is Tuesday, November 6, and polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Are there any questions?**

**Presentations made possible in part by the  
League of Women Voters Education Fund**

**MAKING**  
**DEMOCRACY WORK**  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

**This presentation can be found at:**

**→ [lwvccmi.org](http://lwvccmi.org) ←**