

Statewide Proposals

OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE with PRO and CON STATEMENTS

DISCLAIMER:

The Pro and Con statements for the six statewide ballot proposals reflect the views of their major proponents and opponents as expressed on their websites and other supporting documentation referenced. The inclusion of the views of the various groups is solely in the interest of public service. The League of Women Voters takes no responsibility for the views or facts of the groups.

STATE PROPOSAL 14-1

November 4, 2014

A REFERENDUM OF PUBLIC ACT 520 OF 2012, ESTABLISHING A HUNTING SEASON FOR WOLVES AND AUTHORIZING ANNUAL WOLF HUNTING SEASONS

Public Act 520 of 2012 would:

- Designate wolf as game for hunting purposes and authorize the first wolf hunting season
- Allow the Natural Resources Commission to schedule annual wolf hunting seasons.
- Provide criminal penalties for the unlawful possession or taking of wolves, but shield a person who lawfully captures or destroys a wolf from prosecution.
- Require a person who wishes to hunt wolves to obtain a wolf hunting license.
- Create a Wolf Management Advisory Council for the purpose of making non-binding recommendations to the legislature regarding the proper management of wolves.

Should this law be approved? YES NO

“YES” vote would allow wolf hunting.

“NO” vote would prohibit wolf hunting for the 2014 season.

“YES” Vote Supporters Say:

- Wolf populations should be managed through sound science to protect our livestock, pets and families.
- The seven member Natural Resources Commission, appointed by the Governor, is best suited to consider scientific rationale for new game species or hunts.

“YES” vote Organizations are:

- Citizens for Professional Wildlife Management, a coalition of hunting and trapping organizations including Michigan United Conservation Clubs.
- Website: www.citizenswildlife.org

“NO” Vote Supporters Say:

- Wolves were removed from federal protection in 2012, but are still a vulnerable population.
- No sound science to justify wolf hunt. The public is safe. There have been no recorded human attacks in Michigan. Wolf meat is not consumed by people.
- Wolves are a natural predator to deer and beavers, reducing their density.
- The Natural Resources Commission is political appointees with no professional or competency job standards.

“NO” vote Organizations are:

- Keep Michigan Wolves Protected, a coalition of organizations including the Humane Society, other animal welfare groups, veterinarians, Native American tribes and wildlife biologists.
- Website: www.keepwolvesprotected.com

STATE PROPOSAL 14-2

November 4, 2014

A REFERENDUM OF PUBLIC ACT 21 OF 2013, GRANTING THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION THE POWER TO DESIGNATE WOLVES AND CERTAIN OTHER ANIMALS AS GAME WITHOUT LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Public Act 21 of 2013 would:

- Allow the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to designate certain animals as game for hunting purposes and establish the first hunting season for game animals without legislative action.
- Continue the NRC’s designation of wolves as game and allow the NRC to set a wolf hunting season.
- Grant the Legislature sole authority to remove a species from the list of designated game animals.
- Eliminate the \$1.00 hunting and fishing licensing fee for members of the military, whether stationed inside or outside of Michigan, subject to any lottery.
- Give the NRC sole authority to regulate fishing.

Should this law be approved? YES NO

“YES” vote would allow wolf hunting.

“NO” vote would prohibit wolf hunting for the 2014 season.

“YES” Vote Supporters Say:

- The Natural Resources Commission will regulate game and fish seasons using sound science and management practices.
- Allowing the Natural Resources Commission to make these decisions will prevent emotional decisions by the voters.

“YES” vote Organizations are:

- Citizens for Professional Wildlife Management, a coalition of hunting and trapping organizations including Michigan United Conservation Clubs.
- Website: www.citizenswildlife.org

“NO” Vote Supporters Say:

- The seven member Natural Resources Commission is politically appointed by the Governor and is not required to meet any qualification to make species or fishery management decisions.
- Michigan voters will not be able to reverse decisions made by the Natural Resources Commission because they are a regulatory body.

“NO” vote Organizations are:

- Keep Michigan Wolves Protected, a coalition of organizations including the Humane Society, other animal welfare groups, veterinarians, Native American tribes and wildlife biologists.
- Website: www.keepwolvesprotected.com