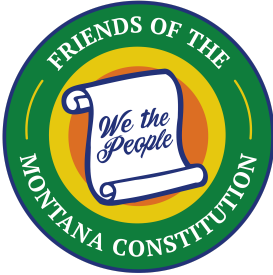


Montana Constitutional Ballot Issues 1972 to 2024

Historical Constitutional Initiatives and Constitutional Amendments¹



This table is partially excerpted from the Montana Secretary of State's document that included 1972 through 2016 amendments. It includes amendments proposed by petition or the legislature *only if* they were on the ballot. References for the 2018 through 2024 elections have been added. The specific citation has been added and included for successful amendments. Not included are measures that did not receive a sufficient number of signatures for the ballot.

Updates were compiled by Susan B. Fox for Friends of the Montana Constitution in March 2026.

	-----1972----- June 6, 1972 election	
Referendum No. 68	1972 MONTANA CONSTITUTION (Adoption)	For: 116,415 Against: 113,883
	-----1974----- November 5, 1974 general election	
C-1 Art. X, sec. 2	Establishing a Resource Indemnity Trust. Chapter 117, HB 576, 1974 Session	For: 121,077 Against: 76,252
C-2 Art. II, sec. 18	Allowing Exceptions to Waiver of Sovereign Immunity if Provided by Law by a 2/3 vote of each House of the Legislature. SJR 64, 1974 Session	For: 108,704 Against: 87,626
CI-1 Art. V, 6	Providing for 90-day Biennial Legislative Sessions. Initiative Petition Proclaimed for Election by Governor: July 10, 1974	For: 110,587 Against: 104,581
	-----1976----- November 2, 1976 general election	
C-3 Art. IX, sec. 5	Creating a Coal Tax Trust Fund. Chapter 499, SB 407, 1975 Session	For: 178,773 Against: 103,001
CI-7	Providing for a limit on state spending and a phase out of federal funds. Proclaimed for election by Governor: August 31, 1976	For: 86,191 Against: 194,734
	-----1978----- November 7, 1978 general election	
C-4 Art. 11, Sec 14	Providing Adult Rights Exception – Drinking Age. Chapter 459, HB 29, 1977 Session	For: 208,227 Against: 64,663

¹ For original SOS document see: sosmt.gov/elections/ballot_issues/#past-ballot-issues

C-5	Providing Legislative Committee for Interim Budget Amendments. Chapter 392, HB 217, 1977 Session	For: 106,209 Against: 145,549
C-6 Art. X, Sec. 9	Providing Optional Local Government Review. Chapter 70, HB 361, 1977 Session	For: 165,668 Against: 82,489
C-7	Providing Legislative Disapproval of Bar Admission Rules. Chapter 420, HB 567, 1977 Session	For: 122,017 Against: 123,438
C-8	Providing that a Legislative Member May Run for Public Office During His Term. Chapter 358, SB 179, 1977 Session	For: 88,397 Against: 170,666
CI-8	Returning a Portion of Property Tax Assessing to Counties and Establishing a 7-Member Commission.	For: 117,760 Against: 134,462
	----- 1980 ----- November 4, 1980 general election	
C-9 Art. VII, sec. 11	Providing Statutory Exceptions to the Confidentiality of the Documents of the Judicial Standards of Commission. Chapter 463, SB 232, 1979 Session	For: 181,140 Against: 129,394
	----- 1982 ----- November 2, 1982 general election	
C-10	Removing Restriction on Investment of Public Funds in Corporate Capital Stock and the Requirement that School Fund Investments Bear a Fixed Interest Rate. Chapter 197, HB 296, 1981 Session	For: 128,607 Against: 153,264
C-11	Legislature Shall Meet in Annual Sessions and Providing Limitations on Business Conducted in Each Respective Session. HB 429, 1981 Session	For: 118,980 Against: 171,196
C-12 Art. VI, sec. 10	Secretary of State Shall Poll the Legislators When the Governor Vetoes a Bill and the Legislature is Not in Session. Chapter 611, HB 225, 1981 Session	For: 147,463 Against: 131,560
	----- 1984 ----- November 6, 1984 general election	
C-13 Art. VII, 11	To Allow the Montana Supreme Court to Discipline a Judge or Justice for Violation of Canons of Judicial Ethics Adopted by the Court. Chapter 85, SB 236, 1983 Session	For: 287,926 Against: 68,251
C-14 Art. V, sec. 14	To Require Redistricting of the Congressional Districts in Montana within 90 Days After the Official Final Decennial Census Figures Are Available. Chapter 421, HB 151, 1983 Session	For: 214,956 Against: 109,813
	----- 1986 ----- November 4, 1986 general election	

C-15 Art. II, sec. 14	To Provide that the People or the Legislature May Establish the Legal Age for Purchasing, Consuming, or Possessing Alcoholic Beverages. Chapter 129, SB 2, 1985 Session	For: 207,233 Against: 106,611
C-16 Art. XIII, 3	To Repeal Article XIII, Section 3, which Requires the Legislature to Create a Salary Commission to Recommend Compensation for the Judiciary and Elected Members of the Legislative and Executive Branches. Chapter 158, HB 463, 1985 Session	For: 172,517 Against: 116,143
CI-27	To Abolish Property Taxes and to Require Voter Approval before imposing a Sales Tax or Increasing Sales or Income Taxes.	For: 140,090 Against: 177,016
	----- 1988 ----- November 8, 1988 general election	
C-17	Removing Constraints on Investment of Public Funds. Chapter 218, SB 14, 1987 Session	For: 122,854 Against: 217,536
C-18 Art. XII, sec. 3	Allowing Legislature to Determine the Eligibility, Duration, and Level of Economic Assistance. HB 637, 1987 Session	For: 182,037 Against: 165,056
C-19 Art. VII, sec. 9	Allowing the Legislature to Establish Specific Residency Requirements for Certain Judges. Chapter 459, HB 491, 1987 Session	For: 224,937 Against: 116,500
C-20	Requiring the Legislature to Meet Each Year. Chapter 633, HB 721, 1987 Session	For: 169,491 Against: 178,855
	----- 1990 ----- November 6, 1990 general election	
CC-1	Calling a Constitutional Convention, pursuant to §13-1-121 MCA.	For: 53,630 Against: 245,009
C-21 Art. IV, sec. 7	Requiring a Valid Election to be Held on Qualified Ballot Issues. SB 286, 1989 Session	For: 166,143 Against: 129,477
CI-55	Repealing Existing Taxes and Requiring State Funding by Assessment of a Trade Charge on Business and Financial Transactions.	For: 78,254 Against: 232,807
	----- 1992 ----- November 3, 1992 general election	
C-22 Art. VII, sec. 8	Revise Law on Election and Selection of Judges and Justices. HB 353, 1992 Session	For: 279,894 Against: 96,313
C-23	Transfer of Public Lands for Less Than Full Market Value. HB 404, 1991 Session	For: 176,082 Against: 205,485

C-24	Increase Membership on Board of Regents with One Being a Native American. HB 407, 1991 Session	For: 105,475 Against: 282,172
CI-63	Big Sky Dividend – Spending Coal Severance Tax Trust Fund Principal for Local Government Facilities and Improvement.	For: 165,126 Against: 219,403
CI-64 Art. IV, sec. 8	Term Limitations of Elected Officials.	For: 264,174 Against: 130,695
	----- 1994 ----- November 8, 1994 general election	
C-25 Art. VIII, sec. 13	Protection of Public Pension Assets. Ch. 43, SB 90, 1993 Session	For: 243,855 Against: 88,336
C-26 Art. VI, sec. 10	Uniform Time Period for Gubernatorial Action on Legislative Bills. Ch. 94, SB 142, 1993 Session,	For: 237,236 Against: 99,334
C-27 Art. VIII, sec. 16	Putting a 4% Limit on State Sales Tax. Ch. 545, SB 289, 1993 Session	For: 175,618 Against: 150,649
C-28	Equalization of Property Values for Property Tax Purposes. SB 27, 1993 Session	For: 138,475 Against: 196,277
CI-66	Voter Approval of Tax Increase. (Denson)	For: 159,282 Against: 181,938
CI-67	Restrictions on Government Finance. (Good)	For: 167,225 Against: 174,616
	----- 1996 ----- November 5, 1996 general election	
C-30	Replace Board of Regents, Board of Education, and Commission of Higher Education with Department of Education and State Education Commission. Ch. 156, HB 229, 1995 Session	For: 142,224 Against: 242,146
C-31	Allow State Comp. Fund Money to be Invested. Ch. 169, HB 463, 1995 Session	For: 166,752 Against: 214,120
C-32	Legislature to Meet Biennially in Even or Odd Years. Ch. 341, HB 273, 1995 Session	For: 174,471 Against: 196,618
	----- 1998 ----- November 3, 1998 general election	

C-33 Art. II, sec. 28	Criminal Laws Must be Based on Principles of Public Safety and Restitution for Victims as Well as Prevention and Reformation. Ch. 313, HB 234, 1997 Session	For: 225,349 Against: 90,349
	----- 2000 ----- November 7, 2000 general election	
C-34 Art. VIII, sec. 13	Investment of State Compensation Insurance Fund Assets. Ch. 516, SB 23, 1999 Session	For: 197,399 Against: 180,850
C-35 Art. XII, sec. 4	Creating a Montana Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund. Ch. 260, SB 13, 2000 Special Session	For: 287,432 Against: 103,979
	----- 2002 ----- November 5, 2002 general election	
C-36	Allowing for the investment of the assets of a local government group self-insurance program in private corporate capital stocks SB 190, 2001 Session	For: 122,822 Against: 188,715
C-37 Art. XIV, sec. 9	Changes for constitutional initiative approval to (10% of qualified (defined in Art. III, sec. 7) electors in) one-half of the counties from two-fifths of the legislative districts.	For: 179,616 Against: 134,538
C-39	Allowing the investment of public funds, including school trust funds, in private corporate capital stock SB 493, 2001 Session	For: 108,450 Against: 204,557
	----- 2004 ----- November 2, 2004 general election	
C-40 Art. IX, sec. 6	Create \$10 million trust fund for the management of noxious weeds. HB 128, 2003 Session	For: 323,929 Against: 105,086
C-41 Art. IX, sec 7	Recognize and preserve the right of Montanans to hunt and fish. HB 306, 2003 Session	For: 345,505 Against: 83,185
C-42	Extend term limits for legislators from 8 years in a 16-year period to 12 years in a 24-year period. HB 277, 2003 Session	For: 136,931 Against: 299,162
CI-96 Art. XIII, sec. 7	Require that only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state. <i>[remains on the books however was overturned by the US Supreme Court]</i>	For: 295,070 Against: 148,263
	----- 2006 ----- November 7, 2006 general election	
C-43	Changing the name of the state auditor to the insurance commissioner.	For: 133,219 Against: 237,367

	----- 2008 ----- November 4, 2008 general election	
C-44	Allowing up to 25% of all public funds presently restricted to fixed income investments to be invested in private corporate capital stock.	For: 118,178 Against: 337,656
	----- 2010 ----- November 2, 2010 general election	
CC-2	Call for a Constitutional Convention	For: 140,869 Against: 198,664
CI-105 Art. VIII, sec. 17	Amending the Montana Constitution to prohibit state or local governments from imposing any new tax on transactions that sell or transfer real property.	For: 259,621 Against: 97,891
	----- 2012 ----- November 6, 2012 general election	
	None received sufficient signatures for ballot	
	----- 2014 ----- November 4, 2014 general election	
C-45	Constitutional amendment to rename the State Auditor.	For: 166,758 Against: 177,615
	----- 2016 ----- November 8, 2016 general election	
	Either insufficient number of signatures or decertified.	
	----- 2018 ----- November 6, 2018 general election	
[CI-116, Art. II	<i>A proposed new sec. 36 on victims' rights was passed by the electorate, but was overturned by the Montana Supreme Court before it ever was included</i>	
	----- 2020 ----- November 3, 2020 general election	
C-46 Art. XIV, sec. 9	Revise method of qualifying a constitutional amendment by initiative – <i>to conform with federal court order</i>	For: 426,279 Against: 128,295
C-47 Art. III, sec. 4	Revise method of qualifying an initiative - - <i>to conform with federal court order</i>	For: 411,153 Against: 140,300
CI-118 Art. II, sec. 14	Added marijuana as an exception to Adult Rights	For: 340,847 Against: 248,442
	----- 2022 ----- November 8, 2022 general election	

C- 48 Art. II, sec. 2	Specifically protect electronic data and communications from unreasonable search and seizure	For: 365,091 Against: 78,334
	---- 2024 ---- November 5, 2024 general election	
CI-126	Amends the Montana Constitution to provide a top-four primary election.	For: 287,837 Against: 300,664
CI-127	Amends the Montana Constitution to provide that elections for certain offices must be decided by majority vote as determined as provided by law rather than by a plurality or the largest amount of the votes.	For: 228,908 Against: 348,805
CI – 128 Art. II, sec. 36	Amends the Montana Constitution to expressly provide a right to make and carry out decisions about one’s own pregnancy, including the right to abortion.	For: 345,070 Against: 252,300

Compiled by Susan B. Fox for Friends of the Montana Constitution- see montanaconstitution.org
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Sources include: the archives on the Secretary of State website, the Annotations for the Montana Code Annotated, 50Constitutions.org, and Ballotpedia.