

SUPPORTING DATA AND REFERENCES

Successful Redistricting Commission Initiatives in the November 2018 Election

COLORADO

November 2018 General Election

Amendment Y and Amendment Z to establish an independent 12-member commission, (4 R, 4 D, 4 unaffiliated) with commissioners chosen by retired judges and a lottery system. Final maps require approved by 8 of 12 commissioners (including 2 unaffiliated) and the Colorado Supreme Court.

Route: Legislature-referred Constitutional Amendment, passed unanimously in both the Colorado House and Senate.

Coalition: Fair Maps Colorado (Fair Districts joined with People Not Politicians)

Supporters: Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jennifer Lawrence (actor), and legislators from both parties, as well as Our Revolution, the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, Pro 15, the League of Women Voters Colorado, and others.

Opposition: The State Ballot Issue Committee, aka 13 Issues, was registered in opposition but did not report any campaign activity or funds spent.

Outcome: Passed, Yes 71% - No 29%, 42% margin (Yes 1,711,008 – No 686,260, Non-votes 127,794)

Background: Redistricting efforts by the Fair Districts coalition began in 2016. They filed two ballot initiative proposals. Competing initiative proposals were submitted by People Not Politicians and by the ACLU, Colorado People's Alliance, NAACP, One Colorado and other groups. Fair Districts and People Not Politicians then joined and developed a compromise amendment. Due to distribution requirements for (ballot) initiated constitutional amendment petitions, which would have made signature collection difficult, the coalitions chose the alternative route whereby the state legislature qualifies the constitutional amendment for the ballot. The amendment was passed unanimously in both the Colorado House and Senate in April of 2018, for inclusion on the November 2018 ballot. Even with such bipartisan support, per the Colorado Independent (August 28, 2018), "To get these measures passed will take a lot of money, time and on-the-ground activism."

Funds spent: \$5.9 million (Fair Maps Colorado)

Primary reference:

[https://ballotpedia.org/Colorado_Amendment_Y,_Independent_Commission_for_Congressional_Redistricting_Amendment_\(2018\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Colorado_Amendment_Y,_Independent_Commission_for_Congressional_Redistricting_Amendment_(2018))

MICHIGAN

November 2018 General Election

Proposal 2 to establish a 13-member independent commission, (4 Dem, 4 Repub, 5 non-affiliated). Commissioners are randomly selected in a process administered by the Michigan Secretary of State. Maps must be approved by at least 7 commissioners, including 2 R, 2 D, 2 unaffiliated.

Route: Ballot initiative by a citizen-led coalition: 5000+ grassroots volunteers collected > 425,000 signatures in 110 days. 315,654 signatures were required by July 9,2018. On December 18,2017 (6 months before the deadline), supporters reported submitting > 425,000 signatures. On June 20,2018, the Board of State Canvassers voted 3-0 to confirm the validity of the signatures, allowing the initiative to appear on the November 6, 2018 Ballot.

Coalition: Voters Not Politicians

Supporters: National Democratic Redistricting Committee (NRDC), Our Revolution, labor organizations (American Federation of Teachers, Michigan Education Assoc., Michigan Nurses Assoc., Michigan State Utilities

Worker Council, State Employees Retirees Assoc., United Auto Workers, United Steelworkers), Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jennifer Lawrence (actor), and others.

Opposition: The Committee to Protect Voters Rights and Citizens Protecting Michigan's Constitution. Opponents included the Michigan Republican Party and the Michigan Freedom Fund. Opposition committees reported expending \$393,500.

Outcome: Passed, 61% - 39% (60% - 40% including non-votes). Note: In late September 2018, the Glengariff Group poll showed the support underwater, with 52% No - 48% Yes).

Background: Two days after the 2016 general election, Katie Fahey put up a post on Facebook, asking for help to stop gerrymandering in Michigan. This led to a grassroots coalition, Voters Not Politicians, of 5000+ volunteers who collected more than 425,000 signatures from all 83 Michigan counties in just 110 days. “ I knew we were doing it the right way when I first heard somebody say ‘our’ campaign to end gerrymandering,” Fahey said.” (Bridge article, 11/7/18).

Funds spent: \$16.3 million (Voters Not Politicians Ballot Committee). Note: As above, the \$16.3 million spent did not include the gathering of >425,000 signatures, done by volunteers, which saved potentially \$1-2 million (A professional petition signature-gathering group in Missouri spent \$1,082,000 to gather the required 160,199 valid signatures, resulting in a total cost per signature of \$6.76. This cost applied to Michigan, where 315,654 signatures were required, would be \$2.1 million).

Primary reference:

[https://ballotpedia.org/Michigan_Proposal_2,_Independent_Redistricting_Commission_Initiative_\(2018\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Michigan_Proposal_2,_Independent_Redistricting_Commission_Initiative_(2018))

UTAH

2011 failure: A citizen-initiated petition drive by Fair Boundaries in the spring of 2011 failed, gathering only 50,000 of 90,000 signatures required by March 17, 2010.

November 2018 General Election

Proposition 4 to create a 7-member advisory commission (4 affiliated with 2 major parties and 5 unaffiliated). Commissioners are appointed by the governor (who appoints the Commission Chair) and majority and minority party leadership. A 5/7 supermajority vote is needed to advance maps to the legislature for an up or down vote. A down vote means the legislature must produce its own map that must be in accordance with commission rules

and standards for map-drawing. If the Legislature enacts a plan other than that submitted by the commission, the Proposition requires the Legislature to publicly issue a detailed written report explaining why.

Route: Ballot initiative by a coalition, Better Boundaries, which collected > 190,000 signatures from September 2017-April 2018.

Supporters: Better Boundaries/Utahns for Responsive Government, Alliance for a Better Utah, AARP Utah, ACLU, Utah League of Women Voters, Serve American Movement, American Association of University Women, Utah Citizens Counsel, and others.

Opposition: Ballotpedia did not identify any committees registered in opposition to Proposition 4.

Outcome: Passed 50.3% Yes - 49.7% No, a 0.6% margin. As of late August 2018, the Dan Jones and Associates poll showed 52% Support, 18% Oppose, 30% Don't Know – so 52% Yes vs 48% No/Don't Know. The final vote for Proposition 4 was 512,218 Yes and 505,274 No, with 45,353 Non-votes. If MN rules for passing a

Constitutional Amendment were used, in which a Non-vote = No vote, the amendment would have been defeated, 52% No - 48%, with 512,218 Yes votes vs 550,627 No/Nonvotes, a margin of 38,409 votes (*Note: Utah final 2018 election results were unavailable on the Utah Lt. Gov. Office website as of 4/10/19. However, the NY Times website recorded 1,062,845 votes cast for the US Senate race in Utah; this was used to estimate

the total vote. While total ballots cast may have been higher, based on totals above for Yes/No from the Ballotpedia website, this would indicate at least 45,353 Non-votes on Prop 4).

Background: After the 2011 failure, a second attempt for a ballot question was launched in the spring of 2017. A bipartisan coalition of community leaders, redistricting advocates and grassroots volunteers formed Utahns for Responsive Government and launched the Better Boundaries initiative. From September 2017 to April 2018, volunteers collected > 190,000 signatures.

Funds spent: \$2.8 million

Primary reference:

[https://ballotpedia.org/Utah_Proposition_4,_Independent_Advisory_Commission_on_Redistricting_Initiative_\(2018\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Utah_Proposition_4,_Independent_Advisory_Commission_on_Redistricting_Initiative_(2018))

MISSOURI

November 2018 Election

Missouri Amendment 1, the Lobbying, Campaign Finance, and Redistricting Initiative included a redistricting measure to create a position of state demographer to draw redistricting maps. The existing bipartisan politician commission may make changes to the proposed plan with a 7/10 vote of approval. If no changes are made, the plan is approved.

Route: Ballot initiative required 160,199 valid signatures submitted by May 6, 2018. Clean Missouri filed 393,914 signatures on May 3, 2018, of which 231,460 were confirmed valid by the Missouri Secretary of State.

Coalition: Clean Missouri, aka Yes on 1

Supporters: Clean Missouri, Demos, Our Revolution, League of Women Voters, Jews United for Justice St. Louis, Missouri Council for the Environment, Missouri Faith Voices, Missouri Health Care for all, Planned Parenthood Advocates in Missouri, Sierra Club Missouri Chapter, NAACP Missouri State Conference, and

others, as well as union groups (Missouri AFL-CIO, Missouri National Education Association), Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill, numerous Republican and Democratic state legislators.

Opposition: Missourians First and Advance Missouri PACs, registered to oppose Amendment 1, spent \$277,787. The Missouri Republican Party opposed Amendment 1.

Outcome: Passed 62% - 38%. Using Missouri SOS results of 2,442,289 total votes cast for US Senator (so total votes may have been more), there were 73,583 non-votes so the final margin would be 60% Yes – 40% No/Non-vote, with 1,469,093 Yes votes – 973,196, No/Non-votes.

Background: In late 2016, activists launched the Clean Missouri campaign (1600 volunteers) to pass reforms including campaign finance, lobbying and redistricting.

Funds raised: \$5.63 million, by Clean Missouri and Fight for Reform. A professional petition signature-gathering group in Missouri spent \$1,082,000 to gather the required 160,199 valid signatures, resulting in a total cost per signature of \$6.76 per signature.

Primary reference:

[https://ballotpedia.org/Missouri_Amendment_1,_Lobbying,_Campaign_Finance,_and_Redistricting_Initiative_\(2018\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Missouri_Amendment_1,_Lobbying,_Campaign_Finance,_and_Redistricting_Initiative_(2018))

Redistricting Reform pre-2018

CALIFORNIA

4 FAILURES in California to establish a redistricting commission by Proposition:

1982, Failed, California Proposition 14, Creation of a Districting Commission, defeated 54.5% to 45.5%; commission not described

1984, Failed, California Proposition 39, Creation of a Redistricting Commission, defeated, 55.2% - 44.8%; commission of 8 former appellate court justices

1990, Failed, California Proposition 119, Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Act, defeated 64% to 36%; 12-person commission appointed by retired appellate judges

2005, Failed, California Proposition 77, special statewide ballot, defeated, 60% to 40%; commission of 3 retired judges

November 2008 General Election -- SUCCESSFUL

Proposition 11, Voters First Act, creation of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw maps for legislative districts, 14 members chosen through an extensive public application process.

Route: Combined (ballot) initiated constitutional amendment and state statute

Outcome: Passed 50.7% - 49.1%, 6,095,033 Yes to 5,897,655 No = Total 11,992,688. There were fewer total votes for Proposition 11 than for any of the other 11 statewide propositions on CA 2008 ballot. Per the

California Secretary of State website, there were 13,561,900 total valid votes cast for president in 2008. This indicates that there were at least 1,569,212 Non-votes on Proposition 11. NOTE: If MN criteria for passing a

Constitutional Amendment were used, in which a Non-vote = No vote, the amendment would have been defeated, 54% - 46%, with 7,466,867 No/Non-votes – 6,095,033 Yes votes.

Coalition: California First. Common Cause CA was the main sponsor.

Supporters: Common Cause CA; CA Chamber of Commerce, AARP, League of Women Voters, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Gov Gray Davis, ACLU Southern CA, CA Black Chamber of Commerce, Central CA Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, NAACP CA State Conference, CA Police Chiefs Association, CA Forward

Opposition: CA Democratic Party, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and others.

Background: After decades of battles over gerrymandering and a joint “incumbent protection plan” agreed on by Republicans and Democrats in 2001, citizen coalitions formed and put Proposition 77 for an independent commission on the ballot – but it failed by a margin of 20%. Civic groups continued to organize and developed Proposition 11, which was largely supported by good-government groups and some CA Republicans including Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and former governor, Gray Davis. Support for redistricting was greater among Republicans than Democrats, but Prop 11 passed in 2008 by a 0.4% margin.

Funding: \$16 million raised by California First, Gov. Schwarzenegger’s California Dream Team. Kimbell Petition Management was paid \$2,332,988 from two campaign committees to collect the signatures.

Primary references:

[https://ballotpedia.org/California_Proposition_11,_Creation_of_the_California_Citizens_Redistricting_Commission_\(2008\)](https://ballotpedia.org/California_Proposition_11,_Creation_of_the_California_Citizens_Redistricting_Commission_(2008)) <https://cavotes.org/sites/default/files/jobs/RedistrictingCommission%20Report6122013.pdf>

ARIZONA

November 2000 Election

Arizona Proposition 106, Constitutional Amendment Relating to Creation of a Redistricting Commission, 5-member commission, of whom the leadership of majority and minority parties choose 4 members (2 from each party), and those 4 commissioners choose the 5th commissioner.

Route: Ballot initiative, the Fair Districts, Fair Elections coalition collected > 200,000 signatures

Coalition: Fair Districts, Fair Elections

Supporters: Arizona Common Cause, League of Women Voters, Arizona School Boards Association, Janet Napolitano/US Attorney General, several mayors and former mayors

Opposition: Several US Congressmen, Barry Aarons (senior fellow with Americans for Tax Reform), Arizona Chamber of Commerce

Outcome: Passed 56% Yes – 44% No, 784,272 Yes to 612,686 No, 162,562 Non-votes (based on 1,559,520 total votes cast per AZ SOS website)

Background: State affiliates of Common Cause and the League of Women Voters and other civic groups formed Fair Districts, Fair Elections. The coalition collected more than 200,000 signatures to place a measure on the November 2000 ballot. The campaign received editorial support from the state’s major newspapers.

Primary source:

[https://ballotpedia.org/Arizona_Creation_of_a_Redistricting_Commission,_Proposition_106_\(2000\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Arizona_Creation_of_a_Redistricting_Commission,_Proposition_106_(2000)) (Note: This Fact Sheet was written by a citizen volunteer. Please direct any questions or corrections to Common Cause MN).

Note: This Resource Fact Sheet was compiled by a citizen volunteer.

Questions or corrections? Contact: abelladonna@commoncause.org