

Know What You Sign Presentation Script

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| 1-Introduction | <p>Good morning/afternoon/evening, everyone! Thank you for coming to the League of Women educational presentation on Know What You Sign</p> <p>Today's presentation will focus on the potential ballot proposals that could go before Michigan voters in 2026. These proposals are the result of many sponsors who chose to either submit their proposals to the Bureau of Elections or directly to the Board of State Canvassers</p> | |
| 2-League History | <p>Before we proceed with the proposals, I'd like to give you a little history of the League. The League of Women Voters was officially founded in Chicago in 1920, just six months before the 19th amendment was ratified and women gained the right to vote.</p> <p>Formed by the suffragists of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, the League began as a "mighty political experiment" designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters.</p> | |
| 3-League's Mission, Vision and Value | <p>Mission: Empowering voters. Defending democracy.</p> <p>Vision: We envision a pluralistic, multi-racial democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.</p> <p>Value: We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.</p> | |
| 4-LWV is Nonpartisan | <p>The League has a proud reputation of being nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public.</p> | |

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| 5-Citizen Initiated Ballot Proposals | <p>We are fortunate in MI to have a constitution that gives three powers to its citizens that not all states provide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first power is called Legislative Initiative and gives voters the right, if certain conditions are met, to "initiate" legislation (laws) • The second power is to invoke a referendum to repeal laws passed by the legislature. • The third power is to amend the Michigan Constitution. <p>Nothing in the constitution may be altered without the approval of the voters. Any action by the legislature to amend the constitution must be placed on the ballot.</p> | |
| 6-Signature Requirements for 2024-2026 cycles | <p>Review the number of signatures which correspond to the type of ballot question using the chart.</p> | |
| 7-Michigan Constitutional Convention | <p>The initiative to hold a state constitutional convention automatically appears on the state's ballot every 16 years.</p> <p>Enshrined in the Michigan Constitution's Article XII, Section 3.</p> <p>Ballot Wording: Shall a convention of elected delegates be convened in 2027 to draft a general revision of the State Constitution for presentation to the state's voters for their approval or rejection?</p> <p>No signature requirement. This will be Proposal 1 on the November 2026 ballot.</p> | |

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| <p>8-Americans for Citizen Voting #1</p> | <p>The Americans for Citizens Voting has two constitutional amendments approved by the Board of State Canvassers. It is unclear if the sponsor will be gathering signatures for #1. This version will require Documentary Proof of Citizenship (DPOC) for newly registered voters.</p> <p>Here is the wording of the 100-word summary for petition #1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require Secretary of State to verify citizenship of all registered voters, document citizenship, remove non-citizens using governmental records, and track separate eligibility requirements for federal and state/local elections; • Prohibit counting ballots from voters with unverified citizenship unless voters show documents to Secretary within 6 days post-election; • For new registrations, require proof of citizenship by showing birth certificate, passport, and/or other documents; • Eliminate affidavit alternative for voters without photo-ID; • Require photo-ID, or driver’s license or partial social security number to vote absentee; • Require state-funded hardship program for obtaining required documents; subject violations to \$1,000 fine and/or up to 5 years imprisonment. <p>Needs 446,198 valid signatures by 7/6/2026</p> | <p>Q: Are there laws in place that already require citizenship to vote?</p> <p>A: Yes! It’s already illegal for noncitizens to vote in federal and state elections. Ineligible people, including non-citizens, that seek to register to vote could face fines, imprisonment, or the possibility of deportation. DPOC adds extra hurdles for eligible citizens without solving a real problem.</p> <p>Q: Do a lot of noncitizens vote?</p> <p>A: Following a 2025 review of voter rolls, Michigan found that noncitizens accounted for approximately 0.00028% of all ballots cast in the 2024 general election. This amounted to 15 confirmed or suspected cases of noncitizens voting out of more than 5.7 million votes*.</p> <p>*Source: Michigan Department of State</p> |
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| <p>9- Americans for Citizen Voting #2</p> | <p>This is the second amendment from Americans for Citizen Voting #2. It is pretty certain the sponsor will circulate petitions for this version. This proposed constitutional amendment will require Documentary Proof of Citizenship (DPOC) for new voter registrations as well as those voters updating their registration. Here is the wording for the 100-word summary.</p> <p>A constitutional amendment to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require citizenship verification for all voters (birth certificate, passport and/or other documents). • Remove non-citizens after notice and 45-day rebuttal. • Beginning 11/2/27, prohibit counting ballots for voters with unverified citizenship unless documents shown to election administrator within 6 days post-election. • Eliminate affidavit alternative for voters without photo-ID. • Require photo-ID or partial social security number to vote absentee. • Subject violators to fine and/or imprisonment <p>Needs 446,198 signatures by 7/6/26</p> | <p>Q: Why is there concern about providing Documentary Proof of Citizenship?</p> <p>A: There is concern about the cost and availability of these documents, especially for married women, low-income individuals, naturalized citizens, minorities and people of color, elderly citizens and people living in rural areas.</p> <p>Q: What types of documents count?</p> <p>A: Although some proposals don't specify the documents, the common types of ID include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US birth certificates • US passports • Certificate of naturalization <p>Other common IDs (like a driver's license) typically aren't accepted unless it specifically shows proof of citizenship or indicates place of birth.</p> |

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| <p>10- Protect Voter's Rights</p> | <p>This is another proposal requiring Documentary Proof of Citizenship (DPOC) for newly registered and currently registered voters. Here is the 100-word summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require Secretary of State to verify citizenship of all registered voters, document citizenship, remove non-citizens using governmental records, and track separate eligibility requirements for federal and state/local elections; • Prohibit counting ballots from voters with unverified citizenship unless voters show documents to Secretary within 6 days post-election; • For new registrations, require proof of citizenship by showing birth certificate, passport, and/or other documents; • Eliminate affidavit alternative for voters without photo-ID; • Require photo-ID, or driver's license or partial social security number to vote absentee; R • Require state-funded hardship program for obtaining required documents; subject violations to \$1,000 fine and/or up to 5 years imprisonment. <p>Needs 446,198 valid signatures by 7/6/2026</p> <p>All three proposals will require documentation (photo-ID, Driver's License, birth certificate, U. S. Passport and/or other documents). Many of these documents are costly and could be difficult for obtain for some voters.</p> | <p>Q: What is the cost to obtain a birth certificate and US passport?</p> <p>A: The cost to obtain a US passport is \$130 (book only) or \$165 (book+card). The cost of a birth certificate varies by county, but averages around \$15.</p> <p>In addition to the cost, the issue is the time it could take to process the US passport (4-6 weeks) and obtain the birth certificate (1-2 weeks), depending on location.</p> |
| <p>Rank MI Vote Slide removed</p> | <p>Note: As of December 16, 2025, signature gathering for this petition has been paused and will not be pursued for the 2026 ballot.</p> | |

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| 11-AxMITax | <p>The 100-word summary includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit real and personal property taxes, currently the primary funding source for counties, municipalities, schools, community colleges, parks, and voter-approved bond repayment; Increase a portion of state sales tax redirected to cities, townships, and villages from 10% to 13.3%, and from 0% to 6.67% for counties; Shift 10% of state income, marijuana, alcohol, and tobacco tax revenue to local governments; allow use of this revenue only for listed essential government and infrastructure services but not for schools, community colleges, parks or local government services; Require 60% voter approval for local tax increases; require 2/3 vote of the Legislature for tax increases greater than 0.1% over 5 years. <p>Needs 446,198 valid signatures by 7/6/2026</p> | <p>Q: Does this really mean all property taxes would be eliminated?</p> <p>A: Yes</p> |
| <p>Voters to Stop Pay Cuts</p> <p>Slide removed</p> | <p>The 100-word summary of this referendum includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease the minimum wage from \$13.73 to \$13.29 (2026) and from \$15 to \$14.16 (2027), with annual inflation-based increases thereafter; Increase tipped worker wage to 48 percent of the full minimum wage in 2025, 60 percent in 2026, 70 percent in 2027, 80 percent in 2028, 90 percent in 2029 and 100 percent in 2030; Eliminate civil fines for employers failing to pay minimum hourly wage. <p>If enough valid signatures are collected, the repeal of PA 1 2025 would appear on the November 2026 ballot.</p> <p>Needs 223,099 valid signatures 90 days prior to the election</p> <p>As of March 23, petition drive suspended.</p> | |
| <p>Invest in MI Kids</p> <p>Slide removed</p> | <p>As of March 12, petition drive suspended.</p> | |

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| 12- Michiganders for Money out of Politics | <p>The 100-word summary in this initiative includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit regulated electric and gas utilities, contractors with over \$250,000 annually in government contracts and people and organizations with substantial connections to these utilities/contractors from making direct or indirect campaign contributions to those who run for or hold offices that impact them; • Expand campaign finance laws and restrictions that regulate spending on political communications, including laws that require disclosing donor information, to apply to communications clearly identifying candidates or ballot questions, even if they do not expressly advocate voting for/against them; • Expressly apply the law requiring disclosure of who paid for political communications to internet political communications. <p>Needs 356,958 valid signatures by 5/27/2026</p> | |
| 13-Identification of Petition Sponsor | <p>There are certain required items on the petition sheet, including, in 8-point type, the name and address of the person, group or organization paying for the printing of the petition form, preceded by the words: "Paid for with regulated funds by ____." MCL 169.247. There are no exceptions.</p> | |
| 14-Know What You Sign | <p>Before a voter puts their signature on a petition, they should take the time to fully read, understand, and verify what it is asking for, what the potential consequences are, and who is behind it—so they are making an informed decision.</p> <p>It's essentially a reminder to be informed and cautious so voters don't accidentally support something they may disagree with or that has hidden implications.</p> | |

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| 15-Additional Resources | <p>There are many trusted resources that can help voters understand the petition and voting processes.</p> <p>Michigan Board of State Canvassers VOTE411.org for candidate and voting information Michiganvoting.org for election, voting and registration requirements Michigan League of Women Voters for a variety of information related to voting resources Michigan Department of State (MDOS) Election and petition information</p> | |
| 16-Join The League | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all who are age 16 years and older. • Joining automatically confers membership at the local, state and national levels. • Membership provides the opportunity to be actively involved in local, state and national issues. • Go to lwvmi.org and select the Join/Renew option. | |
| 17- Questions? | <p>We recognize this was a lot of information to take in! We are happy to take questions at this time, or to go back over any sections that we covered.</p> <p>[TAKE QUESTIONS]</p> <p>Thanks for joining us today! We hope this information has been helpful to you and we encourage you to 'spread the word' these potential ballot proposals for 2026.</p> | |