REFERENDA ON LEGISLATION ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE, 1964-2024

Subject of Referendum	Reason for Referendum[1]	Date of Election[2]	Status of Public Act Following Referendum	Vote For	Vote Against
Public Act 240 of 1964, amending the Michigan Election Law, Public Act 116 of 1954, to institute use of Massachusetts ballot in Michigan to prevent straight party voting	Referendum Petition	1964	Ineffective	795,546	1,515,875
Public Act 6 of 1967, to exempt Michigan from daylight saving time	Referendum Petition	1968	Effective[3]	1,402,562	1,403,052
Public Act 76 of 1968, to authorize issuance of bonds for planning, acquisition, and construction of facilities for prevention and abatement of water pollution and for loans and grants to municipalities	State Borrowing	1968	Effective[4]	1,906,385	796,079
Public Act 257 of 1968, to authorize issuance of bonds to provide funding for public recreational facilities and programs and for loans and grants to municipalities	State Borrowing	1968	Effective[5]	1,384,254	1,235,681
Public Act 304 of 1969, to authorize issuance of bonds for urban redevelopment to increase the supply of low-income housing and for loans and grants to municipalities and redevelopment corporations	State Borrowing	1970	Ineffective	921,482	1,388,737
Public Act 231 of 1972, to authorize issuance of bonds to provide funding for bonus payments and educational benefits to Vietnam and other veterans	State Borrowing	1972	Ineffective	1,490,968	1,603,203
Public Act 106 of 1974, to authorize issuance of bonds to provide funding for bonus payments to Vietnam and other veterans	State Borrowing	1974	Effective[6]	1,668,641	700,041

1 See Const 1963, art 2, § 9 (referendum petition), art 4, § 34 (voluntarily submitted), art 9, § 15 (state borrowing).

2 All elections in November unless otherwise indicated.

3 Compiled as MCL 435.211 *et seq.*

Federal legislation adopted in 1966—PL 89-387, § 3(a); 80 Stat 107—established a system of daylight saving time but allowed states to exempt themselves from the system by law. In 1967, Michigan enacted Public Act 6 of 1967 to exercise this power and exempt the state from daylight saving time. A referendum was held on Public Act 6 of 1967, and the ballot presented the question as follows: "Public Act 6 provides that Michigan shall be exempted from observing Daylight Savings Time. The purpose of this referendum is to approve or reject this act. SHALL THE STATE OF MICHIGAN OBSERVE DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME? YES / NO." Thus, a "yes" vote indicated support for daylight saving time and a desire to render Public Act 6 ineffective, while a "no" vote indicated opposition to daylight saving time and a desire to allow Public Act 6 to become effective. A majority of electors voted "no" on the question, meaning that Public Act 6 became effective and Michigan was exempted from daylight saving time.

The following year, the Michigan Election Law was amended to clarify how ballot proposals were to be worded, such that a "yes" vote would be in favor of the subject matter of the proposal or issue, while a "no" vote would be against the subject matter of the proposal or issue. See MCL 168.485, as added by 1969 PA 152.

4 Initially compiled as MCL 323.371 *et seq.* Repealed and reenacted as Part 45 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, MCL 324.4501 *et seq.*, by Public Act 60 of 1995.

5 Compiled as MCL 318.351 *et seq.* Repealed by Public Act 58 of 1995; see MCL 324.90106(2) (noting that Public Act 257 of 1968 was repealed and not reenacted as part of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994).

6 Compiled as MCL 35.1001 *et seq.*

REFERENDA ON LEGISLATION ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE, 1964-2024 *(Cont.)*

Subject of Referendum	Reason for Referendum[1]	Date of Election[2]	Status of Public Act Following Referendum	Vote For	Vote Against
Public Act 245 of 1974, to authorize issuance of bonds to provide funding to plan, acquire, construct, and equip transportation systems and to make loans and grants for that purpose.	State Borrowing	1974	Ineffective	963,576	1,319,586
Portions of Public Act 250 of 1980, amending the Income Tax Act, Public Act 281 of 1967, to increase the state income tax 0.1% for 5 years to fund the construction of regional correctional facilities, the demolition of the Michigan Reformatory, and other state and local correctional projects.	Voluntarily Submitted	1980	Ineffective	1,288,999	2,202,042
Public Act 212 of 1982, amending Public Act 3 of 1939, to prohibit certain utility rate adjustment clauses, utility rate increases without notice and hearing, and acceptance of employment with any utility for 2 years by member of 81st Legislature.	Voluntarily Submitted	1982	Effective[7]	1,670,381	1,131,990
Public Act 59 of 1987, amending the Social Welfare Act, Public Act 280 of 1939, to prohibit use of public funds for the abortion of a recipient of welfare benefits unless the abortion is necessary to save the life of the mother.	Referendum Petition	1988	Effective[8]	1,959,727	1,486,371
Public Act 326 of 1988, to authorize issuance of bonds to finance environmental protection programs that would clean up environmental contamination sites and address related problems.	State Borrowing	1988	Effective[9]	2,528,109	774,451
Public Act 327 of 1988, to authorize issuance of bonds to finance state and local public recreation projects.	State Borrowing	1988	Effective[10]	2,055,290	1,206,465
Public Act 143 of 1993, amending the Insurance Code, Public Act 218 of 1956, to reduce auto insurance rates; place limits on personal injury benefits, fees paid to health care providers, and right to sue; and allow rate reduction for accident-free driving.	Referendum Petition	1994	Ineffective	1,165,732	1,812,526
Public Act 118 of 1994, amending the Bingo Act, Public Act 382 of 1972, to prohibit candidate committees, political party committees, and other committees organized under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, Public Act 388 of 1976, from conducting bingo games, and to increase maximum prize for charity game.	Referendum Petition	1996	Ineffective	1,511,063	1,936,198

7 Compiled at MCL 460.6a and 460.6b. For discussion of conflicting initiative on same subject approved at same election, and resolution of conflict between these proposals, see note 5 on the preceding table.

8 Compiled as MCL 400.109a.

9 Initially compiled as MCL 299.651 *et seq*. Repealed and reenacted as Part 193 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, MCL 324.19301 *et seq*., by Public Act 60 of 1995.

10 Initially compiled as MCL 318.551 *et seq*. Repealed and reenacted as Part 713 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, MCL 324.71301 *et seq*., by Public Act 58 of 1995.

REFERENDA ON LEGISLATION ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE, 1964-2024 *(Cont.)*

Subject of Referendum	Reason for Referendum[1]	Date of Election[2]	Status of Public Act Following Referendum	Vote For	Vote Against
Public Act 377 of 1996, amending the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, to grant the Natural Resources Commission exclusive authority to regulate taking of game, including bear hunting; to require the Commission to utilize "principles of sound scientific management"; and to require a public meeting before issuance of orders by Commission regarding taking of game.	Voluntarily Submitted	1996	Effective[11]	2,413,730	1,099,262
Public Act 284 of 1998, to authorize bonds for environmental and natural resources protection programs.	State Borrowing	1998	Effective[12]	1,821,006	1,081,988
Public Act 269 of 2001, amending the Michigan Election Law, Public Act 116 of 1954, to eliminate straight party voting, to require voters who do not appear on registration list to show picture identification and vote a challenged ballot, to require expedited canvass in close presidential elections, to require equipment to screen for voting errors, and to provide penalties for new election offenses.	Referendum Petition	2002	Ineffective	1,199,236	1,775,043
Public Act 396 of 2002, to authorize bonds for sewage treatment works projects, storm water projects, and water pollution projects.	State Borrowing	2002	Effective[13]	1,774,053	1,172,612
Public Act 160 of 2004, amending the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, to allow hunting season for mourning doves.	Referendum Petition	2006	Ineffective	1,137,379	2,534,680
Public Act 4 of 2011, to authorize the governor to appoint an emergency manager to act in place of local government officials.	Referendum Petition	2012	Ineffective	2,130,354	2,370,601
Public Act 80 of 2014, amending the Use Tax Act, Public Act 94 of 1937, to allocate a portion of use tax revenue to local units of government, to reduce state use tax, and to replace lost revenue with a local community stabilization share.	Compliance with Headlee Amendment[14]	Aug. 2014	Effective[15]	863,459	382,770

11 Compiled as MCL 324.40113a.

12 Compiled as MCL 324.95101 *et seq.*

13 Compiled as MCL 324.95201 *et seq.*

14 Public Act 80 of 2014 converted a portion of the state use tax into a local tax, creating a new local tax. The Headlee Amendment prohibits the creation of a new local tax without the approval of a majority of the qualified electors of the local unit of government. Const 1963, art 9, § 31. In this instance, the local tax was created statewide, so the Legislature submitted Public Act 80 to the voters as a statewide ballot question. See Public Act 80 of 2014, enacting § 1.

15 Compiled at MCL 205.92c, 205.93, 205.100a, 205.109, and 205.111.

REFERENDA ON LEGISLATION ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE, 1964-2024 *(Cont.)*

Subject of Referendum	Reason for Referendum[1]	Date of Election[2]	Status of Public Act Following Referendum	Vote For	Vote Against
Public Act 520 of 2012, amending the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, to designate wolf as game species for hunting purposes and authorize the first wolf hunting season.[16]	Referendum Petition	2014	Ineffective	1,318,080	1,606,328
Public Act 21 of 2013, amending of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, to designate wolf as game species for hunting purposes, and to allow the Natural Resources Commission to designate wolf and certain other animals as game for hunting purposes and establish the first hunting season for game animals without legislative action.[16]	Referendum Petition	2014	Ineffective	1,051,426	1,856,603

16 The voters considered two ballot proposals on whether to designate wolves as a game species at the November 2014 election. This came about because multiple public acts were passed on this subject between 2012 and 2014. First, in December 2012, Public Act 520 of 2012 was approved, designating wolves as game. A referendum petition on this act was filed in March 2013. After that petition was filed, but before it was certified, the Legislature passed and the governor signed into law Public Act 21 of 2013, which also designated wolves as game. A referendum petition was also filed on Public Act 21 of 2013; the referendum petitions as to both Act 520 and Act 21 were ultimately certified. Thus, referenda on both acts would appear on the November 2014 ballot.

Legislation adopted after these referendum petitions were certified sought to make the outcome of these referenda immaterial. On May 27, 2014, an initiative petition was submitted to specifically reenact the portions of Public Act 520 of 2012 and Public Act 21 of 2013 that designated wolves as game. The initiated law provided that, if the voters rejected any portions of those public acts by referendum in November 2014, then those provisions were deemed to be reenacted by the initiated law. The Legislature adopted this initiated law in August as Public Act 281 of 2014. Because this legislation also included an appropriation, it could not be subjected to a referendum. See Const 1963, art 2, § 9; *Mich United Conservation Clubs v Secretary of State*, 464 Mich 359 (2001).

At the November 2014 general election, Public Act 520 of 2012 and Public Act 21 of 2013 were both rejected by the voters, such that those acts remained ineffective following the election. However, in March 2015, Public Act 281 of 2014 became effective, reenacting the portions of Public Act 520 of 2012 and Public Act 21 of 2013 rejected in the referendum, including the provisions designating wolves as game. The Court of Appeals subsequently held that Public Act 281 was unconstitutional for unrelated reasons. See *Keep Mich Wolves Protected v State*, unpublished per curiam opinion of the Court of Appeals, issued November 22, 2016 (Docket No. 328604).