

2008 Ballot Measure Youth Voter Guide

A guide to ballot measures in your state – www.ballot.org



Ballot Initiative
STRATEGY CENTER

2008 Ballot Measure Youth Voter Guide presented in partnership with....



This year youth voter turnout will play an important role on Election Day as young voters engage in our Democratic process like never before. While much of the focus has been on youth voter engagement in the Presidential election, young voters will face important choices from the top to the bottom of the ballot.

With that in mind, **Ballot Initiative Strategy Center**, **Campus Progress Action**, **Choice USA**, and **Progressive Future** have joined together to produce a Youth Voter Guide highlighting 30 ballot measures on issues especially relevant to young voters and their future: criminal justice, the environment, education, reproductive freedom, jobs and taxes, health care, and equality.

Arizona

INVESTMENT/TAXES

Do you want people who don't vote to cancel out your vote?

Proposition 105

Majority Rule-Let the People Decide Act Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Arizona: Amending Article IV, Part 1, Constitution of Arizona, by Adding Section 1.1 Relating to Initiative Measures and Requiring that Any Mandatory Tax or Spending Increase Be Enacted by a Majority of Qualified Electors: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Majority Rules – Let the People Decide In Favor of Prop 105, <http://www.letthemajorityrule.com/prop105.html>

Opponents: The Voters of Arizona – No on Prop 105, www.TheVotersOfAZ.com

LGBT EQUALITY

Do you want to vote again to restrict marriage, even though Arizona already voted on this issue?

Proposition 102

Senate Concurrent Resolution 1042 Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Arizona; Amending the Constitution of Arizona, by Adding Article 30; Relating to Marriage: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Yes for Marriage, www.YesForMarriage.com

Opponents: Arizona Together Opposed to Prop 102, www.AZTogether.org

Arkansas

EQUALITY

Do you want to work against the best interests of children who need loving homes?

Initiative Act 1

An Act Providing that an Individual Who is Cohabiting Outside of a Valid Marriage May Not Adopt or be a Foster Parent of a Child less than Eighteen Years Old: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Family Council Action Committee,

www.AdoptionAct.FamilyCouncilActionCommittee.com

Opponents: Arkansas Families First, www.ArkansasFamiliesFirst.org

California

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

Do you want to require teenagers that are victims of rape or incest to notify their parents before having an abortion?

Proposition 4

Waiting period and parental notification before termination of minor's pregnancy: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Friends of Sarah, www.FriendsOfSarah.com

Opponents: The Campaign for Teen Safety, www.NoOnProp4.org

LGBT EQUALITY

Do you want to take away rights or treat everyone equally under the law?

Proposition 8

Eliminates the right of same-sex couples to marry: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot

Proponents: Protect Marriage, www.ProtectMarriage.com

Opponents: Equality for California Families, www.NoOnProp8.com

Colorado

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Do you want to re-write the state constitution by rolling back and banning equal opportunity programs that help ensure everyone gets a fair shake?

Amendment 46

Prohibition on Discrimination and Preferential Treatment by Colorado Government: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Colorado Civil Rights Initiative, www.ColoradoCRI.org

Opponents: Vote No on Amendment 46, www.VoteNoAmendment46.com

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Do you want to limit the ability of firefighters, teachers, nurses, and police officers to work as a group to advocate for better working conditions, protective equipment, and appropriate staffing levels that keep them - and citizens in Colorado – safe?

Amendment 47

Prohibition on Certain Conditions of Employment: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: A Better Colorado, www.ABetterColorado.com

Opponents: Protect Colorado's Future, www.ProtectColoradosFuture.org

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

Do you want to outlaw abortion, some forms of birth control, and allow the state to investigate miscarriages?

Amendment 48

Definition of Person: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Colorado for Equal Rights, www.ColoradoForEqualRights.com

Opponents: Protect Families, Protect Choice, www.ProtectFamiliesProtectChoice.org

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Do you want to weaken the voice of small, local businesses and limit the way firefighters, nurses, teachers and police officers can choose to spend their hard-earned paychecks?

Amendment 49

Limitation on Public Payroll Deductions: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to

www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Ethical Standards Now, www.EthicalStandardsNow.org

Opponents: Protect Colorado's Future, www.ProtectColoradosFuture.org

TRANSPORTATION

Do you want to pass an initiative that will use the oil severance tax money to fund roads instead of education like Amendment 58 would?

Amendment 52

Severance Tax: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Better Roads Now Issue Committee, www.BetterRoadsNow.com

Opponents: A Smarter Colorado, the supporters of Amendment 58, www.ASmarterColorado.org

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Do you want to unfairly silence any person or family member of anyone who works on a government contract from contributing to a candidate or advocating for an issue at any level - while creating big loopholes for drug, oil, and energy companies?

Amendment 54: Economic Security

Restrictions on Campaign Contributions from Government Sole-Source Contractors: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Clean Government Colorado, www.CleanGovernmentColorado.com

Opponents: Protect Colorado's Future, www.ProtectColoradosFuture.org

EDUCATION

Do you want to eliminate the \$300 million in tax subsidies received by the oil companies and redirect that money to higher education, renewable energy and other priorities?

Amendment 58

Severance Tax: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: A Smarter Colorado, www.ASmarterColorado.org

Opponents: Coloradans for a Stable Economy, <http://voteno58.com/>

EDUCATION

Do you want to dedicate a permanent source of revenue for education?

Amendment 59

Savings Account for Education: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Savings Account for Education (SAFE), www.ColoradoSAFE.org

Opponents: None Identified

Florida

LGBT EQUALITY

Do you want to take away domestic partnership rights and benefits?

Amendment 2

Florida Marriage Protection: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Florida For Marriage, www.Florida4Marriage.org

Opponents: Florida Red & Blue, www.SayNo2.com

Maine

HEALTH CARE

Do you want to take away health coverage from Maine kids and their hard-working parents?

Question 1

People's Veto of Parts D, E and F of P.L. 2007 Chapter 629, "An Act To Continue Maine's Leadership in Covering the Uninsured": For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to

www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Fed Up With Taxes, www.FedUpWithTaxes.org

Opponents: Health Coverage for Maine, www.HealthCoverageMaine.org

Massachusetts

INVESTMENT/TAXES

Do you want to eliminate nearly 40% of the state budget and severely cut public safety and education programs, while driving up local property taxes?

Question 1

State Personal Income Tax: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Committee for Small Government, www.SmallGovernmentAct.org

Opponents: Vote No on Question 1, www.VoteNoQuestion1.com

Michigan

HEALTH CARE

Do you want to make vital components of stem cell research legal for finding life-saving cures and therapies for Michigan families?

Proposal 08-2

A proposal to amend the state constitution to address human embryonic stem cell research in Michigan: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Stem Cell Research Ballot Question Committee, www.curemichigan.com

Opponents: Michigan Citizens Against Unrestricted Science and Experimentation, www.MIcause.com

Missouri

ENERGY

Do you want to help provide jobs for Missouri, reduce dependence on foreign energy and provide affordable, reliable energy for the future?

Proposition C

For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Missourians for Cleaner Cheaper Energy, www.MissouriCleanEnergy.org

Opponents: No Committee Identified

HEALTH CARE

Do you want to ensure that seniors and people with disabilities have access to quality home care services?

Proposition B

Home Care: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Missourians for Quality Home care www.MOQualityHomeCare.org

Opponents: None Identified

Montana

HEALTH CARE

Do you want to expand health coverage for 30,000 uninsured Montana children?

I-155

The Healthy Kids Plan Act: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Healthy Montana Kids, www.HealthyMontanaKids.org

Opponents: No Committee Identified

Nebraska

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Do you want to re-write the state constitution by rolling back and banning equal opportunity programs that help ensure everyone gets a fair shake?

Initiative Measure 424

Nebraska Civil Rights Initiative: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Nebraska Civil Rights Initiative, www.NebraskaCRI.org

Opponents: Nebraskans United, www.NebraskansUnited.org

Oregon

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Do you want to toughen sentences for drug trafficking and specified property crimes while requiring addiction treatment for certain offenders?

Measure 57

Increases sentences for drug trafficking, theft against elderly, and specified repeat property and identity theft crimes; requires addiction treatment for certain offenders: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: The Better Way to Fight Crime Committee, www.BetterWayToFightCrime.com

Opponents: Measure 57 competes directly with Measure 61

EDUCATION

Do you want voters telling teachers how best to teach students with limited English-capacity and punish the students in the process?

Measure 58

Prohibits teaching public school students in a language other than English for more than two years: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: English Immersion Committee

Opponents: Parents and Teachers Know Better, <http://www.parentsandteachersknowbetter.com/>

ECONOMIC SECURITY/EDUCATION

Do you want to base teachers' pay solely on undefined "classroom performance," rather than their qualifications, experience, or training?

Measure 60: Economic Security

Teacher "classroom performance," not seniority, determines pay raises; "most qualified" teachers retained regardless of seniority: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to

www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Preserve our Best Teachers, primary funding from Loren Parks who owns a medical equipment company in Las Vegas, NV

Opponents: Parents and Teachers Know Better,
<http://www.parentsandteachersknowbetter.com/>

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Do you want to impose mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent crimes but not require treatment for drug-addicted offenders?

Measure 61: Criminal Justice

Creates mandatory minimum prison sentences for certain theft, identity theft, forgery, drug, and burglary crimes: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Oregonians for Safe Neighborhoods, primary funding from Loren Parks who owns a medical equipment company in Las Vegas, NV

Opponents: The Better Way to Fight Crime, www.BetterWayToFightCrime.com

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Do you want to curtail the individual rights of tens of thousands of Oregonians – like teachers, nurses, firefighters, and police officers – by denying them the ability to make their own decisions about how to spend their hard earned paychecks?

Measure 64: Economic Security

Penalizes a person or entity for using funds collected with "public resource" (defined) for "political purpose": For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Bans Public Money for Politics Committee, primary funding from Loren Parks who owns a medical equipment company in Las Vegas, NV

Opponents: Don't Silence Our Voice: No on Measure 64,
www.DontSilenceOurVoice.com

South Dakota

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

Do you want to pass a sweeping ban on abortion that is considered just as dangerous as the 2006 ban that South Dakota voters widely rejected?

Measure 11

An Initiative to prohibit abortions except in cases where the mother's life or health is at a substantial and irreversible risk, and in cases of reported rape and incest: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Vote Yes For Life, www.VoteYesForLife.com

Opponents: South Dakota Healthy Families, www.SDHealthyFamilies.org

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Do you want to shut tens of thousands of South Dakotans out of the political process, effectively robbing them of their First Amendment rights?

Measure 10

An Initiative to prohibit tax revenues from being used for lobbying or campaigning, to prohibit governmental bodies from lobbying, to prohibit government contractors from making campaign contributions, to prohibit government contracts when the contractor employs a legislator or legislative staff member, and to require contracts with governmental bodies to be published. For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: South Dakotans for Open and Clean Government, <http://cleanupsd.com/>

Opponents: No on 10 Committee, <http://www.voteno.org>

Washington

HEALTH CARE

Do you want to allow mentally competent, terminally ill adults with six months or less to live to receive - under strict safeguards - a prescription for life-ending medication?

Initiative Measure 1000

Allowing Certain Terminally Ill Competent Adults to Obtain Lethal Prescriptions: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Yes! On I-1000, www.YesOn1000.org

Opponents: The Coalition Against Assisted Suicide, www.NoAssistedSuicide.com

HEALTH CARE

Do you want to improve long-term care by increasing the amount of training that home health care workers receive?

Initiative Measure 1029

Long-Term Care Workers for the Elderly or Persons with Disabilities: For the full text of the initiative and more information on other ballot measures in this state, go to www.ballot.org/pages/on_the_ballot.

Proponents: Yes on 1029, www.YesOn1029.org

Opponents: Community Care Coalition of Washington, www.CommunityCareCoalitionWA.org

About Ballot Initiative Strategy Center

Ballot Initiative Strategy Center (BISC) is the nerve center for progressive ballot initiative campaigns across the country. As voters across the country prepare to go to the polls, the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center's website, www.ballot.org, is the most comprehensive, up to date and user friendly place for information on ballot initiative campaigns.

Find the latest news on ballot initiative activity across the country; search for information by state or issue; historical information and context; and review the best research and resources on the ballot initiative process.

BISC is a clearinghouse for ballot initiative strategies, sound policy-driven solutions, and clear, accurate election results and analysis. BISC tracks and researches strategic questions such as: Will an initiative increase voter turnout in the election and how? What impact will ballot initiatives and the issues they advance have on electoral politics? Will a ballot initiative help or hurt a candidacy? What does support and opposition to particular ballot initiatives say about the mood of the electorate?

Interactive Maps: The website features an interactive map that people can use to learn which issues will be on the ballot in their state this year. From Florida to Montana, Maine to Colorado, www.ballot.org is the place to go to learn about the initiative campaigns going on in each state. People can also look at what issues are being advanced through the initiative process including: education, energy, equal opportunity, health care, immigration, investment and taxes, LGBT equality, reproductive freedom and economic security.

Ballot Fraud Watch: The new website contains the most up-to-date research on the pattern of fraud and deception perpetrated by ballot measure sponsors who have a history of abusing the direct democracy process. BISC has been a national leader in the effort to safeguard the citizens' initiative process from being hijacked by those subverting democracy through illegal activity. Refer to www.stopballotfraud.org for more information.

About Campus Progress Action

Campus Progress Action works to help young people -- advocates, activists, journalists, artists, and others -- make their voices heard on issues that matter. We engage in advocacy, coalition, and media work on key policy issues of importance to young people; advance grassroots issue campaigns on campuses and in communities; and train young people in media, policy, writing, grassroots organizing, and other critical skills. Since our launch in 2005, Campus Progress Action has worked to build a strong, united progressive movement that can bring long-term positive change. Through ambitious programs in activism, journalism, and events, we have helped young people achieve real results: victories on issues from college access to academic freedom, living wages to Sudan; a national network of young journalists who chronicle and spur positive change; ground-breaking videos and web projects that propel new thinking and activism; and hundreds of packed-room events that have inspired tens of thousands of attendees to learn more and work for progress. Campus Progress has been a leader in a growing national youth movement that has helped bring increases in youth voting, organizations, and activism, and in young people effectively making their voices heard on the issues. For more information refer to www.campusprogressaction.org and www.campusprogress.org.

About Choice USA

Choice USA mobilizes and provides ongoing support to the diverse, upcoming generation of leaders who promote and protect reproductive choice both now and in the future. For more information refer to www.choiceusa.org

About Progressive Future

Progressive Future promotes progressive values through grassroots action. We are a nonprofit organization advocating for core progressive principles such as community, fairness, and security; and working for progress on critical issues such as providing health care for all Americans, promoting a clean energy economy, and ending the war in Iraq. We make the case for sensible policy solutions and hold politicians' feet to the fire by activating citizens in their communities and helping progressive Americans make their voices heard. For more information refer to www.ProgressiveFuture.org.