

LWVMA Ballot Question Study: Consensus Questions Quick Reference and Outcome October 2018

Question	Yes	No	No Con
Section I: Understanding the Ballot Questions			
1. Should additional efforts be made to ensure petition summaries are written for the greatest understanding by voters?			
2A. Do the statements of fiscal consequences in the "Information for Voters" red booklets from 2016 and 2018 provide voters with the information they need to make an informed decision on the potential fiscal impact of passing the ballot question(s)?			
2B. Should voter information beyond the 100-word statement of fiscal consequences found in the "Information for Voters" red booklet be available, such as through public meetings, webinars, telephone call-ins, websites, etc.?			
3. Should the arguments in favor and against in the "Information for Voters" red booklet be prepared by an independent source such as a citizen group appointed for that purpose rather than, or in addition to, the proponents and opponents identified by the Secretary of the Commonwealth?			
4. Should there be a limit to the length (e.g., number of words or number of pages) of the full text of a proposed law for an initiative petition (and eventual ballot question)?			
5. Should the Secretary of the Commonwealth periodically review and update the means of disseminating and publicizing the "Information for Voters" red booklet?			
Section II: Signature Requirements			
6A. Should that limitation be modified to reflect population variation while still ensuring geographic dispersion of signatures?			
6B. Should that limitation be eliminated?			
7. Should every identifiable, unique signature on a petition be counted toward the required total, rather than rejecting, for example, all signatures on a page because of one error or stray mark?			
8. In a petition for law, a second round of signatures must be collected after the legislature has had time to act. Only signatures from registered voters who did not sign the first round can be counted. Should this second round be eliminated?			

Question	Yes	No	No Con
Section III: Signature Gathering			
9. Should there be regulations governing signature collectors?			
10. Should the Secretary of the Commonwealth provide training opportunities for signature collectors?			
Section IV: Legislative Involvement and Responsibilities			
11. An initiative petition for a constitutional amendment requires two votes, one in each of two successively elected Legislatures. Should the second vote be eliminated?			
12. Should there be a period during which the legislature is not allowed to change a citizen-initiated law passed or repealed by ballot question?			
Section V: Campaign financing for ballot questions			
13. Should Massachusetts seek ways to limit the amount of money that can be spent on ballot question campaigns?			
14. Should accurate information on campaign donations to and expenditures for ballot question committees be available to the public prior to the election?			
Section VI: The Initiative and Referendum Process in Massachusetts			
15. Should the current initiative and referendum process by which citizens can do the following (A-C) be retained?			
15A. Initiate laws			
15B. Initiate constitutional amendments			
15C. Repeal laws through referendum			