

ACTIVITY

“VOTE” ON A PROPOSITION

DO YOU KNOW how propositions make it onto the ballot in *your* state? And how your state’s constitution can be amended? Every state is different. Research how both of these processes work for your community—start by visiting the website for your Secretary of State or Board of Elections. Try to find answers to the following questions:

Propositions

1. Does your state allow citizens to put propositions on the ballot? (Some do. Some don’t.)
2. If so, do citizens collect signatures on a petition? How many signatures are needed?
3. Or does the state legislature control ballot measures, where they are only placed on the ballot by elected representatives, not citizens?
4. Now find a ballot (online) from a recent election, or one from an upcoming election, where at least one proposition

is included. How would *you* vote on the proposition(s) if you could?

Constitutional Amendments

1. Can citizens amend their state’s constitution, or only the legislature?
2. If the citizens can, is it by a simple majority vote?
3. If the legislature amends the constitution, what is the process?
4. Has your state amended its constitution recently? If so, what changed?



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