



# Ballot Initiative STRATEGY CENTER

## November 2003 Election Highlights of Ballot Measure Results

State/Measure	Subject	Result
Arizona (Pima County)	Transportation	A proposal to increase Tucson's city sales tax 3/10 cent (along with a 4% increase in the construction contracting sales tax) and to provide a dedicated funding source for expanded public transit (including light rail) was defeated by 63% of the voters.
California (San Francisco) -Prop L	Labor	The residents of San Francisco, one of the most expensive cities to live, voted to raise the minimum wage to \$8.50 per hour (and index the wage to inflation), which is more than \$3 above the federal wage of \$5.15. This measure passed with 60% of the vote.
California (San Francisco)	Homeless	Another successful San Francisco proposition will replace a jumble of existing panhandling laws with a broader, more specific prohibition. It will ban "aggressive solicitation" by panhandlers and outlaw asking for money on public transportation, in parking lots and from motorists.
Colorado-Referendum A	Bond (pertaining to water)	Despite Referendum A's strong support from Gov. Owens, Coloradoans voted against a \$2 billion bond to allow older water storage facilities to be upgraded and new ones to be built. 59.69% voted no and 40.31% voted yes to Issue A - the smallest margin of the three state initiatives on the state ballot this election. Some analysts have been saying that the 2-to-1 defeat of Referendum A was a major political defeat for Gov. Owens and a victory for Attorney General Ken Salazar, who was a consistent opponent of the idea. Many see Salazar as the leading Democratic candidate for Governor three years from now.
Colorado-Amendment 32	Tax reform	Voters came out strong against the amendment that would increase the personal property taxes. By a margin of 3 to 1 (75.95% to 24.05%) voters declined to alter the Gallagher bill, which has put the state's finances into a fiscal crisis by restricting the growth of residential property taxes throughout the state.
Colorado-Amendment 33	Colorado Amendment 33	Colorado Citizens made it loud and clear that they do not want to increase the state's gaming industry by allowing 2,500 Video Lottery Terminals in the states five racetracks. The amendment would have increased the British Wembley Corporation's annual revenue by 39 percent or \$64.6 million by 2007. Wembly pumped in \$5 million of the \$6 million spent to promote its passage, while mountain town casinos fearful of losing business, led a \$3.4 million campaign against it. The margin of victor for opponents of Amendment 4 to 1 (79.19% no and 20.81% yes)
Colorado (Denver) - Initiative 101	"Peace"	Voters rejected Initiative 101, dubbed "Safety Through Peace," which proposed that Denver adopt peacefulness programs that lower "society-wide stress," which in turn, the proponent claimed, would reduce crime, accidents, violence and terrorism.
Maine-Question 2	Gambling	By a small margin of 53% to 47 % voters agreed to allow race tracks to added slot machines in two of the states race tracks. As a result, a \$30 million hotel and conference center may be built in Bangor and could bring in revenue up to \$75.3 million a year.
Maine-Question 3	Gambling	Maine voters emphatically rejected big-time casino gambling Tuesday, defeating a proposal by two Indian tribes to build a \$650

		million Las Vegas-style resort that critics said would tarnish the state's image. The Maine vote came after a divisive campaign in which nearly \$10 million - a state record - was spent by supporters and opponents of the casino proposed for the southern town of Sanford. Backers said the project would produce thousands of badly needed jobs, but opponents - who prevailed by a 2-1 margin - said it was the wrong kind of economic boost for a state that promotes scenic beauty and outdoor tourism.
Maine- Question 4, 5, 6	Bonds	Maine approved three bonds; (1) \$6.9 million for upgraded sewage treatment systems, hazardous waste and cleanups, (2) \$19 million to make repairs, upgrades and other facility improvements and enhance access for students with disabilities in state universities, (3) \$63.4 million for improvements to highways, bridges, airports and other state infrastructure.
Maine- Question 1A	Education/Taxes	Maine voters, addressing issues that have stymied elected officials for years, stopped short of enacting anything into law Tuesday after sorting through three choices on a complex ballot question that focused on tax reform and tax relief. With close to 90 percent of statewide precincts reporting, the most far-reaching option held the advantage. But it failed to gain enough votes for outright approval and a runoff election loomed. Question 1A gathered enough support to move to an up-or-down vote next year, but not enough to be enacted outright. If it passes, 1A would bring significant hikes in revenue to municipalities.
Missouri (Kansas City)	Transportation	By 66% to 34%, voters approved a proposal to enact a three-eighths-cent city sales tax for five years to generate almost \$22 million a year for the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority to improve the transit system and create more express routes. More than one-third of bus routes in the city would have been eliminated if voters hadn't approved this measure. Voters rejected a measure supported by a transit activist (but not the Amalgamated Transit Union) that proposed a 12-year, half-cent sales tax increase that would have generated more than \$360 million to add 50 new electric and hybrid-electric buses to the existing KCATA fleet
Mississippi - Amendment 1	Judicial reform	This proposed amendment provides that after January 2004, as vacancies occur, the 12-member Board of Trustees of Higher Learning shall be appointed from each of the three Mississippi Supreme Court districts, until there are four members from each Supreme Court district. The terms office are reduced from twelve years to nine years. The terms are staggered so that all members appointed after 2012 will have a term of nine years.
New Jersey - Question 1	Environment (open space)	Backed by Gov. McGreevey, question 1 passed overwhelmingly. The measures call for an amendment to a 1998 ballot protects the states open space.
New Jersey- Question 2	Environment (hazardous waste clean up)	Question 3 united environmentalist and builders to clean up Brownfield with money already earmarked to clean up underground fuel tanks. Anti-Sprawl groups hope that the measure will encourage development in these lands and keep it away from the states rural areas.
New Jersey - Question 3	Environment (dams)	Voters in New Jersey said yes to question 3 by a margin of 59% to 41%. State legislators claim the dams of the state are at risk of high failure, placing the communities around the dams at risk if the current dams should fail. Question 3 allows for \$200 million in bonds to be issues repair dams owned by the state as well as those privately owned. Environmentalists in the state believe its bad for the environment and for taxpayers and claim that the only

		people who would benefit are the breakage houses and engineering firms.
New York - Proposal #1	Bond (sewer clean up)	By a margin of 53% to 47% voters passed this Constitution Amendment. The measure will allow the state to continue to borrow money for sewer projects and not counting it toward a limit on their debt in the state constitution.
New York - Amendment 1	Election Reform	A charter amendment in New York City was soundly defeated that Mayor Bloomberg put \$2 million of his own money behind to replace the city's current system of "closed" party primaries by instituting nonpartisan elections for mayor and other city posts.
Ohio - Issue #1	Bonds (business)	Gov. Taft's idea of bringing high tech jobs to the state was turned down by voters. This measure would have amended the state constitution to broaden the ability of the state, state universities, and local governments to provide support for "research and the resulting product innovation, development, and commercialization..." Bonds, allowed by this measure, would have been backed by the state's "full faith and credit" and the state would have been obligated to pay such debts regardless of state fiscal conditions. This could have resulted in the state making long-term financial commitments it couldn't modify during a financial crisis. Meeting these obligations would likely have come at the expense of social services, education, and other discretionary programs
Ohio	Equal rights	In an historic victory for gay rights, voters in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, voted overwhelmingly in favor of a measure establishing a domestic partner registry. While domestic partner registries exist in more than 60 localities across the country, this victory marks the first time a domestic partner registry – or any other pro-gay measure – has ever been adopted through a ballot initiative in the heartland of the country.
Pennsylvania - Amendment 1	Administrative	With the passage of Amendment 1 by a margin of 2 to 1 Pennsylvania will become the 35 <sup>th</sup> state to allow laws to be passed to protect children from the trauma of having to testify in court in sexual assault cases.
Washington - Initiative 841	Labor	Washington voters repealed the states worker safety / ergonomics laws that was set to be enforced next year (52% to 47%). This measure was sponsored by the Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW), which has pushed an anti-worker, anti-labor business agenda in the state of Washington for years. Initiative opponents blame the defeat on the association's financial advantage as well as the relatively small amount of attention the initiative drew.

Note: Only five of the 24 ballot initiative states allow statewide initiatives in off years (CO, OH, ME, MS, WA), which is why there were only a handful of initiatives on the 2003 ballot. Non-initiative states that hold statewide elections, are allowed to refer measures to the ballot (known as referenda), such as Pennsylvania and New Jersey. For a preview of the 2004 ballot, contact:

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