

Are you a Liberal? Here's How You Should Vote on Every State Ballot Initiative...

State ballot initiatives are how voters can immediately and permanently write new laws in their states. It is one of the greatest powers afforded to voters. Unfortunately, most ballot initiatives are written in "legalese," making them very difficult to understand. Worse yet, many politicians and special interests exploit this by writing initiatives that deliberately mislead voters.

This voter guide is designed to serve as a no-nonsense "Cliff Notes" version of each amendment and the position that would be considered most democratic and progressive. This guide is not a representation of the official Democratic National Committee position, as the DNC has not staked out a position on most of these amendments. When the state or national party has taken a position, we have taken the same one.

In the overwhelming majority of state ballot initiatives, where the DNC has not taken an official position, we have done our best to triangulate the most progressive position by evaluating the motives of each side, the monied interest(s) behind them, and the general principles espoused in the initiative. Most of the time, one side is the clear winner. When an initiative is likely to have a mixed impact, we have done our best to indicate that in the explanation.

South Dakota

- ✘ NO** **Initiated Measure 24**
Probably unconstitutional attempt to place restrictions on out-of-state campaign donations—no other state does this
- ✔ YES** **Initiated Measure 25**
Increases taxes on cigarettes and tobacco products, funds tobacco use and prevention programs, saves lives
- ✘ NO** **Constitutional Amendment W**
A lot of positive elements, but extends too much unchecked power to a small group of individuals
- ✘ NO** **Constitutional Amendment X**
Makes it harder for amendments with popular support to pass by extending threshold from 50% to 55% of voters
- ✘ NO** **Constitutional Amendment Z**
Makes it harder and more expensive to propose amendments, drowning out the voices of grassroots activists