August 3, 2026

Deadline established for submissions regarding ballot language

Statewide ballot proposals
November 3, 2026

Under Michigan election law, the Director of Elections is charged with drafting ballot language for statewide ballot proposals, and the Board of State Canvassers reviews and approves the language. "The statement shall consist of a true and impartial statement of the purpose of the amendment or question in such language as shall create no prejudice for or against the proposed amendment or question." MCL 168.32; see also Const 1963, art 12 §2.[1]

The ballot wording has two components. The first is the 100 words referenced in the State Constitution and the statute; the second is the caption which does not have a specific word limit. Both are held to the same impartiality standard. Michigan election law directs that ballot proposals must be constructed so that a "Yes" vote is in favor of the subject matter of the proposal and a "No" vote is against the subject matter of the proposal. MCL 168.485, 643a. Prior to drafting, the Director of Elections solicits suggested language and explanatory material which has proven useful for developing impartial ballot language. Ballot wording may differ from the 100-word summary on the face of the petition. *Opinion of the Attorney General* No. 7310 (May 22, 2019).

The Board of State Canvassers will meet on August 24, 2026, to determine the sufficiency of a proposed constitutional amendment, Americans for Citizen Voting – Michigan (ACV). If the Board determines the petition has a sufficient number of signatures for certification to the ballot, it will be necessary for the Director to submit and the Board to approve a 100-word summary of purpose that will accompany the proposal on the ballot. The Director is soliciting public comments that will be considered in drafting a 100-word summary to be presented to the Board for consideration in the event that the Board certifies the petition as containing a sufficient number of signatures. The Bureau of Elections has not yet made any recommendations as to the sufficiency of the ACV petition and continues to process it. Upon completion, the Bureau will publish its staff report on the Board's website.

This announcement ensures members of the public will have sufficient time to provide input on any 100-word summary that may be considered. The calendar for the petitions is as follows:

Deadline for submission of suggested language and/or explanatory materials to staff:	August 10, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

[1] "The ballot to be used in such election shall contain a statement of the purpose of the proposed amendment, expressed in not more than 100 words, exclusive of caption. Such statement of purpose and caption shall be prepared by the person authorized by law, and shall consist of a true and impartial statement of the purpose of the amendment in such language as shall create no prejudice for or against the proposed amendment."

Date of Board meeting at which petition sufficiency will be determined and 100-word summary considered for sufficient petitions:	August 24, 2026
Deadline for Secretary of State to certify ballot contents to county clerks:	September 4, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

Submissions may be made via email (MDOS-Canvassers@Michigan.gov), U.S. Mail (P.O. Box 20126, Lansing, Michigan 48901), or hand delivery (address provided in the page footer). **Submissions must be received in this office by the date and time specified to be considered**. Suggested 100-word summaries and explanatory materials, rather than general positions of support for or opposition to the petition, are encouraged.