

BALLOT PROPOSAL reference card

Fill out this card and take it with you to the polls on November 6, 2012

PROPOSAL 12-1

YES NO

Notes: _____

PROPOSAL 12-2

YES NO

Notes: _____

PROPOSAL 12-3

YES NO

Notes: _____

PROPOSAL 12-4

YES NO

Notes: _____

PROPOSAL 12-5

YES NO

Notes: _____

PROPOSAL 12-6

YES NO

Notes: _____

PROPOSAL 12-1

A REFERENDUM ON PUBLIC ACT 4 OF 2011—
THE EMERGENCY MANAGER LAW

PUBLIC ACT 4 OF 2011 WOULD:

- Establish criteria to assess the financial condition of local government units, including school districts.
- Authorize Governor to appoint an emergency manager (EM) upon state finding of a financial emergency, and allow the EM to act in place of local government officials.
- Require EM to develop financial and operating plans, which may include modification or termination of contracts, reorganization of government, and determination of expenditures, services, and use of assets until the emergency is resolved.
- Alternatively, authorize state-appointed review team to enter into a local government approved consent decree.

should this law Be APPROVED? Yes no

People voting **Yes** say:

- A "YES" vote upholds Public Act 4, the Local Government and School District Fiscal Accountability Act. This law allows the state to intervene in schools and local governments who are experiencing financial difficulty in order to attempt to avoid bankruptcy.
- Repealing the law puts the local elected officials back in charge who may repeat the same mistakes, putting Michigan taxpayers on the hook for the debt these officials pile up.
- Repeal would throw several Michigan cities and schools into financial chaos, threatening critical services because of a political decision.

People voting **no** say:

- A "NO" vote repeals Public Act 4. This law undercuts local control by replacing democratically-elected representatives with an unelected manager overseen by the state, even if the financial difficulty resulted from causes beyond the control of local officials.
- This law allows emergency managers to break and/or renegotiate contracts, including contracts with employees and private businesses, and to suspend collective bargaining.
- This law gives extensive power to an appointed emergency manager, with few checks and balances on his or her actions and behavior.

PROPOSAL 12-4

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH THE MICHIGAN QUALITY HOME CARE COUNCIL AND PROVIDE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR IN-HOME CARE WORKERS

THIS PROPOSAL WOULD:

- Allow in-home care workers to bargain collectively with the Michigan Quality Home Care Council (MQHCC). Continue the current exclusive representative of in-home care workers until modified in accordance with labor laws.
- Require MQHCC to provide training for in-home care workers, create a registry of workers who pass background checks, and provide financial services to patients to manage the cost of in-home care.
- Preserve patients' rights to hire in-home care workers who are not referred from the MQHCC registry who are bargaining unit members.
- Authorize the MQHCC to set minimum compensation standards and terms and conditions of employment.

should this ProPosAl Be APPROVED? Yes no

People voting **Yes** say:

- The proposal creates a home care registry to connect seniors and people with disabilities to home care providers in their area, who are registered, have undergone screening and background checks, and have access to continual trainings.
- The proposal would strengthen the Council's ability to increase current safety standards, provide training, and provide access to high-quality in-home care.
- This proposal would give a constitutional right to collective bargaining to home health care workers to allow them to fairly negotiate with their employers, a right that elected officials could not eliminate.

People voting **no** say:

- This proposal would effectively force in-home care workers, including relatives of the patient, to join a union and pay union dues.
- In-home care workers are no longer considered public employees due to recent actions by Lansing politicians; however, this proposal would recognize them as such in order to unionize them.
- It would be unwise to lock this proposal in the Constitution as it would hinder lawmakers from altering the operation of the Council.

PROPOSAL 12-2

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION REGARDING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

THIS PROPOSAL WOULD:

- Grant public and private employees the constitutional right to organize and bargain collectively through labor unions.
- Invalidate existing or future state or local laws that limit the ability to join unions and bargain collectively, and to negotiate and enforce collective bargaining agreements, including employees' financial support of their labor unions. Laws may be enacted to prohibit public employees from striking.
- Override state laws that regulate hours and conditions of employment to the extent that those laws conflict with collective bargaining agreements.
- Define "employer" as a person or entity employing one or more employees.

should this ProPosAl Be APPROVED? Yes no

People voting **Yes** say:

- All workers need the right to organize to form, join or assist unions, and to bargain and negotiate in order to receive a fair contract and a living wage, to be guaranteed by the Constitution. Elected officials should not be able to interfere with that right.
- Workers deserve an opportunity to fairly negotiate with their employer.
- Collective bargaining protects workers from devastating cuts to their wages, benefits, and working conditions. Michigan's citizens need protections in this uncertain economy.

People voting **no** say:

- This amendment will repeal an unknown number of existing laws, including those that detail the hiring, firing and discipline process for police, fire fighters and teachers. No one knows how those critical services will be affected.
- This amendment would significantly limit the state government's ability to regulate state workers and the labor activities of private employees.
- It would be unwise to lock this proposal in the Constitution as it would hinder lawmakers from adapting to changing conditions.

PROPOSAL 12-3

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH A STANDARD FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

THIS PROPOSAL WOULD:

- Require electric utilities to provide at least 25% of their annual retail sales of electricity from renewable energy sources, which are wind, solar, biomass, and hydropower, by 2025.
- Limit to not more than 1% per year electric utility rate increases charged to consumers only to achieve compliance with the renewable energy standard.
- Allow annual extensions of the deadline to meet the 25% standard in order to prevent rate increases over the 1% limit.
- Require the legislature to enact additional laws to encourage the use of Michigan made equipment and employment of Michigan residents.

should this ProPosAl Be APPROVED? Yes no

People voting **Yes** say:

- This proposal will require new investments in Michigan infrastructure, creating new Michigan jobs and helping to turn our economy around.
- The proposal in the long run could decrease energy prices.
- Switching to renewable energy sources protects our rivers, lakes, and air.

People voting **no** say:

- Energy rates are too high in Michigan already and could be higher because of this amendment. Michigan already has a renewable target of 10% by 2015, and providers are making progress toward reaching this standard.
- Energy policy should not be included in the Constitution.
- A significant amount of the energy would come from wind. Installing the necessary wind turbines would alter the state's landscape.

PROPOSAL 12-5

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO LIMIT THE ENACTMENT OF NEW TAXES BY STATE GOVERNMENT

THIS PROPOSAL WOULD:

- Require a 2/3 majority vote of the State House and the State Senate, or a statewide vote of the people at a November election, in order for the State of Michigan to impose new or additional taxes on taxpayers or expand the base of taxation or increasing the rate of taxation.
- This section shall in no way be construed to limit or modify tax limitations otherwise created in this Constitution.

should this ProPosAl Be APPROVED? Yes no

People voting **Yes** say:

- This proposal creates a high standard to make sure taxes are raised only when absolutely necessary and when a large majority of lawmakers agree on the need or when a statewide vote is held.
- The 2/3 requirement would make it more difficult to raise taxes.
- Michigan's most recent tax hikes were passed by slim margins. This proposal would have prevented those increases and may prevent future increases.

People voting **no** say:

- With the requirement of a 2/3 vote, the decision to make tax code improvements such as replacing an old or outdated tax with another form of revenue, even if no net increase, would fall to a small minority of legislators. The Michigan Business Tax would not have been repealed under these circumstances.
- The proposal would make the budget process more difficult for lawmakers and could result in new cuts to education and public safety. It would encourage the Legislature to raise or create fees forcing a smaller population to bear the costs.
- This proposal would prevent lawmakers from eliminating loopholes, thereby protecting special interests. Creating new special interest loopholes would still only require a simple majority of lawmakers.

PROPOSAL 12-6

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES AND TUNNELS

THIS PROPOSAL WOULD:

- Require the approval of a majority of voters at a statewide election and in each municipality where "new international bridges or tunnels for motor vehicles" are to be located before the State of Michigan may expend state funds or resources for acquiring land, designing, soliciting bids for, constructing, financing, or promoting new international bridges or tunnels.
- Create a definition of "new international bridges or tunnels for motor vehicles" that means, "any bridge or tunnel which is not open to the public and serving traffic as of January 1, 2012."

should this ProPosAl Be APPROVED? Yes no

People voting **Yes** say:

- International bridges and tunnels are special cases that involve ongoing taxpayer-funded expenses. The people should have a say in these important decisions, and this proposal would require a majority of Michigan voters to approve a new bridge or tunnel before being built.
- It is unclear if there is enough traffic between Southeast Michigan and Canada to necessitate a second bridge.
- State government should not use taxpayer dollars to compete directly with the existing, privately-owned bridge connecting Southeast Michigan and Canada.

People voting **no** say:

- A second international bridge is needed to improve the movement of goods between Southeast Michigan and Canada, for economic development and job creation statewide, and enhanced homeland security.
- Michigan and Canada already have an agreement in place that ensures that no Michigan tax dollars will be used for construction of a new bridge.
- A statewide vote should not be required for the state to move forward with important crossings in the future, just as no votes were taken for the numerous existing bridge projects. The process for constructing a new bridge is not an issue that should be included in the Constitution.