

INITIATIVE USE

January 2008

A total of 2,236 state-level initiatives have been on the ballot since the first ones went before the voters in Oregon in 1904, and 908 (41 percent) have been approved.

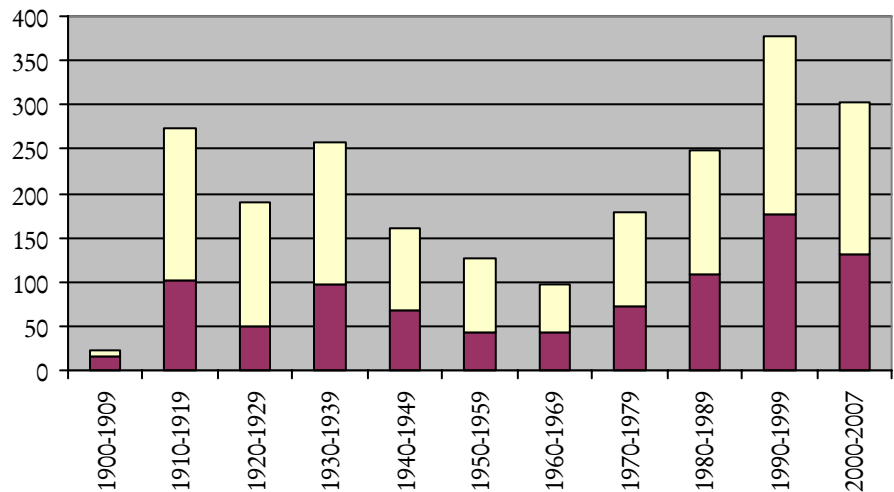
The modern initiative movement began in the last 1970s with California's tax-cutting Proposition 13. Each decade since the 1970s has seen more initiatives on the ballot and more initiatives approved than the previous decade, with a total of 378 in the 1990s, 177 of which were approved. In the current decade (2000-2007), a total of 303 initiatives have been on the ballot, with 131 passing, a slightly lower level of activity than the 1990s. The current decade is already the second busiest in history.

Twenty-three states have had at least one initiative during the period 1904-2007. Oregon continues to be the overall leader, with 341 initiatives through 2007. California is second with 315. Colorado (196), North Dakota (175), and Arizona (165) round out the top five.

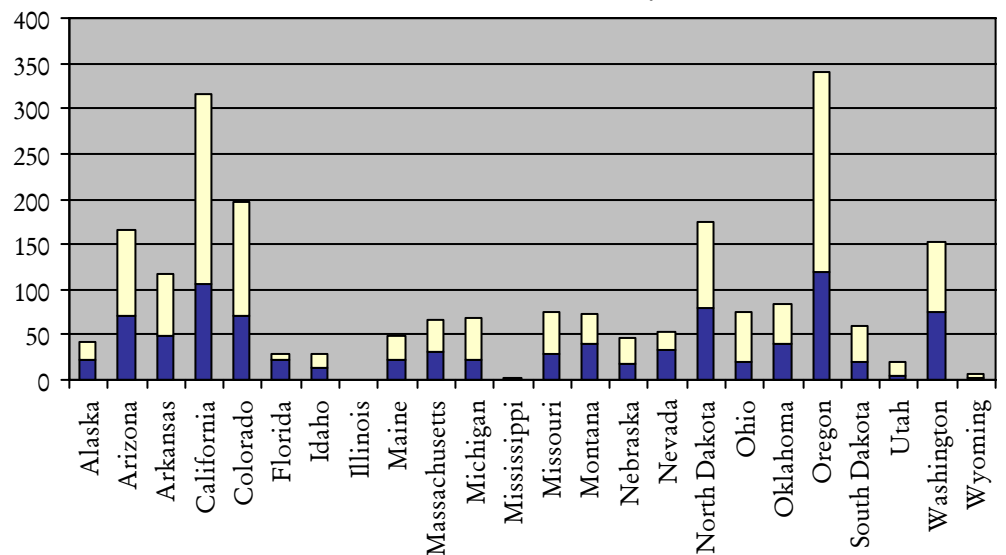
This report summarizes state-level initiative activity during the period 1904-2007. The figures show the total number of initiatives, and (shaded) the number that were approved. A complete year-by-year count is on the second page.

OVERVIEW OF INITIATIVE USE, 1904-2007

Number of Initiatives by Decade



Number of Initiatives by State



YEAR-BY-YEAR LIST OF INITIATIVES

Year	Total	Passed
1904	2	2
1906	10	7
1908	11	6
1910	33	10
1911	1	1
1912	70	25
1913	1	0
1914	90	29
1915	3	0
1916	40	13
1917	1	0
1918	32	24
1919	3	0
1920	51	18
1921	6	0
1922	41	11
1923	3	1
1924	28	6
1925	1	0
1926	31	9
1927	2	0
1928	26	5
1930	36	8
1931	4	0
1932	69	31
1933	7	5
1934	36	14
1935	3	3
1936	40	13
1938	54	22
1939	8	1
1940	47	17

Year	Total	Passed
1942	15	6
1943	1	1
1944	26	8
1946	23	12
1947	3	1
1948	40	19
1949	5	4
1950	35	7
1952	26	10
1954	18	4
1955	1	0
1956	24	13
1957	1	0
1958	22	9
1960	22	9
1962	20	9
1964	29	15
1965	3	0
1966	10	7
1968	13	4
1969	1	0
1970	12	2
1971	2	0
1972	37	15
1973	4	1
1974	18	14
1975	6	1
1976	45	9
1977	7	5
1978	42	23
1979	6	2
1980	37	14

Year	Total	Passed
1981	5	2
1982	54	23
1983	4	0
1984	41	21
1985	1	1
1986	42	18
1987	3	1
1988	57	27
1989	4	2
1990	64	22
1991	6	2
1992	63	32
1993	5	3
1994	71	36
1995	4	0
1996	93	43
1997	6	0
1998	61	37
1999	5	2
2000	76	33
2001	4	3
2002	51	21
2003	7	3
2004	66	36
2005	18	2
2006	79	32
2007	2	1

The information in this report is drawn from the IRI Initiatives Database (version 2008-1). The report covers initiatives, new laws placed on the ballot by petition. It does not include popular referendums or measures placed on the ballot by the legislature.

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