

Redistricting Information

Michigan Redistricting Collaborative

The state League is part of the Michigan Redistricting Collaborative (MRC) which is made up of other C3 organizations who are in the process of educating their members.

Those organizations are:

- fi Good Government Groups such as the League of Women Voters and Common Cause
- fi Organizations representing Communities of Color: African-Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Arab Americans
- fi Environmental Groups such as the Sierra Club and Clean Water Action
- fi Others: Michigan League for Public Policy, Michigan Nonprofit Association

Go to your local League's website to add your name to the list of interested citizens who want to be notified of League events and actions related to redistricting.

Policy Options

Before making any decisions re a possible ballot proposal campaign, a coalition of organizations would need to review possible redistricting options. For example, if an Independent Commission were considered, should it be bi-partisan or non-partisan. Two or three agreed upon, policy options would need to be tested with focus groups and/or surveys of likely voters to determine how they resonated with the public.

League of Women Voters of Michigan Statement on Redistricting:

¡ The League of Women Voters supports an Independent Commission as a solution to the problems with Michigan's current redistricting process. LWVMI is aware that other groups are thinking about a ballot proposal campaign. At this time, the League has not endorsed a ballot proposal or joined a coalition to do so. The LWVMI Board will evaluate the possibility of joining a ballot campaign based on the proposal and the probability of the campaign's success. f (www.lwvmi.org)

Campaign Finance Law re Ballot Campaigns

Ballot Proposal Campaigns are governed by Michigan's Campaign Finance Law. The law, as it has been interpreted by the Michigan Secretary of State, requires anyone who has shown intent to conduct a ballot proposal campaign or who has spent at least \$500 to form a Ballot Committee and to file the necessary paper work with the state of Michigan. Subsequent campaign finance reports must be filed on a timely basis.

Steps for Ballot Proposal Campaigns

If the League were to decide to go forward with a ballot proposal campaign, a number of steps would be required.

1. File a Ballot Committee with the state of Michigan and make required financial reports to the state.
2. Form a campaign structure that specifies who has the authority to make what decisions
3. Develop a time line that would meet the various deadlines. Ballot proposals need to be submitted to the Board of Canvassers for approval to place them on the ballot by July 1 of the election year. For example, July 1, 2018 or July 1, 2020.
4. Hire appropriate staff
5. Develop a Communication plan using tested messaging
6. Develop a Fund Raising plan to pay for: staff, signature gatherers and a media campaign once the ballot proposal had been approved by the Board of Canvassers for placement on the ballot.
7. Write several ballot proposals; based on the agreed upon, redistricting policy options. Proposals would need to be tested to see how they resonated with the public. They would also need to be reviewed by a constitutional lawyer.
8. Submit petitions to the Board of Canvassers for formatting, not content, approval.
9. Print the petitions for signature gathering. Proposed constitutional amendment language must be included on the petitions.
10. Hire a signature gathering company to get and validate 400,000 signatures. Cost is estimated to be \$1.5 million. Cost could be reduced to the extent volunteers were part of the signature gathering effort. Signatures are only good for 180 days so sufficient, valid signatures would have to be collected within that time period.
11. Submit petitions to Board of Canvassers for approval and placement on the ballot