

Legislative Approval of Proposed Constitutional Amendments (1894–2013)*

Amendment Description	Election Year	House yeas*	House Membership	House % yea	Senate yeas*	Senate Membership	Senate % yea
To authorize a council to establish salaries for legislators.	2016 ¹	69	134	51.5%	43	67	64.2%
To provide that only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota	2012	70	134	52.2%	38	67	56.7%
To require all voters to present valid photo identification to vote	2012	72	134	53.7%	35	67	52.2%
To protect our natural resources and preserve Minnesota's arts and cultural heritage by increasing the sales and use tax rate beginning July 1, 2009, by three-eighths of one percent on taxable sales until the year 2034	2008	85	134	63.4%	46	67	68.7%
To dedicate the motor vehicle sales tax to highways and public transportation.	2006	76	134	56.7%	36	67	53.7%
To preserve hunting and fishing heritage.	1998	124	134	92.5%	57	67	85.1%
To extend use of lottery for environmental trust fund.	1998	132	134	98.5%	62	67	92.5%
To abolish the office of state treasurer.	1998	85	134	63.4%	63	67	94.0%
To provide for recall of elected state officials.	1996	122	134	91.0%	34	67	50.8%
To authorize a bonus for Persian Gulf War veterans.	1996	130	134	97.0%	58	67	86.6%
To permit off-track wagering on horse racing in a manner prescribed by law.	1994	76	134	56.7%	46	67	68.7%
To dedicate 40 percent of the state lottery proceeds to the environment and natural resources trust fund until the year 2001.	1990	113	134	84.3%	55	67	82.1%
To establish a Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund for environmental, natural resources, and wildlife purposes.	1988	77	134	57.5%	37	67	55.2%
To allow the use of juries of fewer 12 members in civil and nonfelony cases.	1988	119	134	88.8%	48	67	71.6%
To permit the legislature to authorize a lottery operated by the state.	1988	77	134	57.5%	37	67	55.2%
To remove restrictions on the investment of the permanent school fund and to allow the limits on the investment of the fund and the apportionment of the returns on the investment to school districts to be set by law.	1984	122	134	91.0%	60	67	89.6%
To allow the exchange of state-owned lands for other lands owned by state or local governments.	1984	127	134	94.8%	38	67	56.7%
To permit the legislature to authorize on-track pari-mutuel betting on horse racing.	1982	77	134	57.5%	36	67	53.7%

¹ Approved by the legislature at the 2013 regular session; the proposed amendment is scheduled to appear on the 2016 general election ballot. *See* Laws 2013, chapter 124.

Amendment Description	Election Year	House yeas*	House Membership	House % yea	Senate yeas*	Senate Membership	Senate % yea
To provide state bonding authority for the improvement and rehabilitation of railroad facilities.	1982	121	134	90.3%	54	67	80.6%
To allow the creation of a court of appeals.	1982	118	134	88.1%	62	67	92.5%
To remove restrictions on the interest rate for and the amount of trunk highway bonds.	1982	122	134	91.0%	51	67	76.1%
To establish a bipartisan reapportionment commission.	1980	114	134	85.1%	52	67	77.6%
To require campaign spending limits for executive and legislative offices and public disclosure of campaign spending for all state candidates.	1980	86	134	64.2%	47	67	70.2%
To remove requirement of senate approval for notaries public.	1980	132	134	98.5%	39	67	58.2%
To establish initiative and referendum.	1980	86	134	64.1%	47	67	70.2%
To remove restrictions on the interest rate for and the amount of highway bonds.	1980	101	134	75.4%	42	67	62.7%
To permit proceeds from increases in motor fuel taxes to be placed in the general fund; to remove restrictions on interest rate for and amount of highway bonds.	1976	74	134	55.2%	40	67	59.7%
To ease vote requirement for amending constitution.	1974	93	134	69.4%	39	67	58.2%
To allow legislature to determine railroad taxes.	1974	118	134	88.1%	46	67	68.7%
To revise organization and language of constitution.	1974	107	134	79.85%	42	67	62.7%
To reorganize the state judicial system; to provide for appointment of clerks of district court; to authorize discipline and removal of	1972	133	135	98.5%	59	67	88.1%
To provide for the joint election of the governor and lieutenant governor; to remove the lieutenant governor as the presiding officer of the senate.	1972	126	135	93.3%	49	67	73.1%
To allow flexible legislative sessions.	1972	115	135	85.2%	49	67	73.1%
To authorize bonus payment for Vietnam veterans.	1972	135	135	100.0%	67	67	100.0%
To reduce voting age requirement from 21 to 19 years; to provide an age requirement of 21 years to hold public office.	1970	123	135	91.1%	54	67	80.6%
To authorize the legislature to define or limit categories of tax-exempt property.	1970	134	135	99.3%	64	67	95.5%
To allow legislators to assume another elective or appointive office upon resignation from the legislature.	1968	129	135	95.6%	62	67	92.5%

Amendment Description	Election Year	House yeas*	House Membership	House % yea	Senate yeas*	Senate Membership	Senate % yea
To allow legislature to present bills to governor within three days after legislature adjourns; allowing governor 14 days to sign or veto such bills.	1968	122	135	90.4%	65	67	97.0%
To allow legislators to seek election to other offices and to provide resignation procedure for legislators.	1966	124	135	91.9%	54	67	80.6%
To remove obsolete language from constitution.	1964	126	135	93.3%	57	67	85.1%
To prevent amendment or repeal of taconite tax policies for 25 years; to authorize legislature to impose limitations for not more than 25 years on taxation of copper and nickel mining.	1964	125	135	92.6%	56	67	83.6%
To allow state to contract long- and short-term debts for public improvements upon approval of 3/5 of both houses of the legislature.	1962	86	135	63.7%	37	67	55.2%
To remove restrictions on length of legislative sessions.	1962	93	135	68.9%	57	67	85.1%
To consolidate the swamp land fund and the permanent school fund; to set distribution requirements and investment restrictions.	1962	68	135	50.4%	56	67	83.6%
To extend the legislative session; to restrict the time during which bills can be introduced; to set qualifications for legislators running for other elective offices.	1960	108	131	82.4%	58	67	86.6%
To prescribe the place where a person moving to a new precinct within 30 days before an election may vote; eliminating obsolete provisions on the voting rights of persons of Indian blood.	1960	99	131	75.6%	55	67	82.1%
To provide for succession to the office of governor: to provide for continuity of government in emergencies caused by enemy attack.	1960	124	131	94.7%	55	67	82.1%
To allow an extra legislative session for reapportionment if reapportionment is not completed during the regular session.	1960	95	131	72.5%	46	67	68.7%
To authorize the legislature to revise and consolidate provisions relating to local government, home rule and special laws.	1958	118	131	90.1%	63	67	94.0%
To permit members of the legislature to hold certain elective and nonelective state offices.	1958	115	131	87.8%	48	67	71.6%
To provide for four-year terms for state constitutional officers to take effect for terms beginning in 1963.	1958	77	131	58.8%	51	67	76.1%
To authorize the consolidation of present trunk highway articles and sections, to increase state aid and supervision of public highways; to permit tax of motor vehicles and fuel; to apportion funds for highway purposes 62-29-9 to state and local highways.	1956	109	131	83.2%	51	67	76.1%
To permit the legislature to reorganize the judicial power of the state.	1956	113	131	86.3%	58	67	86.6%

Amendment Description	Election Year	House yeas*	House Membership	House % yea	Senate yeas*	Senate Membership	Senate % yea
To authorize the legislature to divert 50% of the occupation mining tax proceeds earmarked for education from permanent trust funds to current educational needs.	1956	80	131	61.1%	63	67	94.0%
To authorize the legislature to limit the liability of stockholders of state banks.	1954	104	131	79.4%	52	67	77.6%
To permit legislature to extend probate jurisdiction by a 2/3 vote.	1954	102	131	77.9%	51	67	76.1%
To permit gubernatorial appointments in case of vacancy in certain offices to run until end of term or January 1 to eliminate need for election to short terms.	1954	105	131	80.2%	38	67	56.7%
To provide for a 60% popular vote before a new state constitution can be ratified and to remove constitutional bar precluding members of the legislature from serving in a constitutional convention.	1954	93	131	71.0%	43	67	64.2%
To clarify meaning of who shall be entitled to vote.	1952	94	131	71.8%	52	67	77.6%
To permit legislature to extend probate jurisdiction by a 2/3 vote.	1952	88	131	67.2%	51	67	76.1%
To authorize a change in the investment and loan requirements governing permanent school and university funds.	1952	107	131	81.7%	34	67	50.8%
To provide for a 60% popular majority of voters voting on the question before a new state constitution can be considered legally ratified by the electorate.	1952	95	131	72.5%	46	67	68.7%
To provide for a 65-10-25 apportionment of excise tax on motor vehicles.	1952	87	131	66.4%	35	67	52.2%
To authorize diversion of 1% of the proceeds of the occupation mining tax to the veterans' compensation fund.	1950	103	131	78.6%	59	67	88.1%
To provide for a 50-44-6 apportionment of the excise tax on petroleum products.	1950	107	131	81.7%	52	67	77.6%
To authorize forestry management funds by diverting certain proceeds (25%) from the public land trust fund.	1950	97	131	74.1%	47	67	70.2%
To authorize submission of two or more amendments without requiring voters to vote	1948	83	131	63.4%	49	67	73.1%
To authorize 2/3 of the legislature to call for a constitutional convention without submitting the question to the voters.	1948	90	131	68.7%	44	67	65.7%
To provide for 50-50 apportionment of excise tax on petroleum products.	1948	116	131	88.6%	62	67	92.5%
To authorize the state to pay a veterans' bonus.	1948	99	131	75.6%	66	67	98.5%
To authorize state construction and operation of airports; to authorize taxes on aircraft fuel and aircraft sales.	1944	92	131	70.2%	48	67	71.6%

Amendment Description	Election Year	House yeas*	House Membership	House % yea	Senate yeas*	Senate Membership	Senate % yea
To simplify and reduce the expense of publishing amendments to city and village charters.	1942	110	131	84.0%	49	67	73.1%
To change requirements for investment or loan of permanent school and permanent university funds.	1942	93	131	71.0%	48	67	71.6%
To change requirements for publication of proposed amendments to city and village charters.	1940	76	131	58.0%	36	67	53.7%
To change requirements for publication of proposed amendments to city and village charters.	1938	79	131	60.3%	42	67	62.7%
To authorize the legislature to exchange state public lands for federal lands.	1938	118	131	90.1%	37	67	55.2%
To exempt personal property from state tax.	1936	75	131	57.3%	48	67	71.6%
To authorize the legislature to exchange state public lands for federal lands.	1936	116	131	88.6%	42	67	62.7%
To exempt all household goods and farm machinery and equipment from taxation.	1934	72	131	55.0%	38	67	56.7%
To authorize the legislature to exchange state public lands for federal lands.	1934	97	131	74.1%	40	67	59.7%
To authorize taxation of lands acquired through rural credit system.	1934	82	131	62.6%	38	67	56.7%
To authorize legislature to add new routes to trunk highway system.	1934	92	131	70.2%	49	67	73.1%
To define “academies, colleges, universities and seminaries of learning” to mean, for tax purposes, property actually used in instruction and housing of students.	1934	91	131	69.5%	55	67	82.1%
To authorize the legislature to exchange state public lands for federal lands.	1932	107	131	81.7%	51	67	76.1%
To authorize the taxation of lands acquired through rural credit system.	1932	100	131	76.3%	40	67	59.7%
To authorize taxation of income, franchises and privileges of railroad companies; to authorize legislation to make taxation of national banking associations conform to federal law.	1932	90	131	68.7%	46	67	68.7%
To authorize taxation of motor vehicles of companies paying taxes under the gross earnings taxation system.	1932	93	131	71.0%	48	67	71.6%
To provide two elective associate supreme court justices to replace appointed court commissioners.	1930	97	131	74.1%	51	67	76.1%
To authorize the legislature to limit the liability of stockholders in corporations.	1930	109	131	83.2%	58	67	86.6%
To authorize the legislature to exchange state public lands for federal lands.	1930	99	131	75.6%	43	67	64.2%

Amendment Description	Election Year	House yeas*	House Membership	House % yea	Senate yeas*	Senate Membership	Senate % yea
To authorize the legislature to limit the liability of stockholders in corporations.	1928	89	131	67.9%	53	67	79.1%
To place revenue generated by motor fuel tax 2/3 in trunk highway fund and 1/3 in bridge fund.	1928	87	131	66.4%	45	67	67.2%
To authorize the legislature to limit the liability of stockholders in corporations.	1926	73	131	55.7%	36	67	53.7%
To authorize enactment of laws promoting forestation and reforestation of public and private lands.	1926	98	131	74.8%	39	67	58.2%
To fix the number of justices on the state supreme court.	1926	111	131	84.7%	51	67	76.1%
To authorize enactment of laws promoting forestation and reforestation of public and private lands, including irrepealable provisions for forest land tax and a yield tax on timber products.	1924	109	131	83.2%	53	67	79.1%
To authorize state expenditure to prevent forest fires, including compulsory taxation, clearing and improvement of public and private wild lands.	1924	71	131	54.2%	38	67	56.7%
To change requirements for publication of proposed amendments to city and village charters.	1924	73	131	55.7%	48	67	71.6%
To establish state-owned and operated public terminal grain elevators.	1924	75	131	57.3%	37	67	55.2%
To place revenue generated by excise taxes on motor fuels in trunk highway fund.	1924	89	131	67.9%	48	67	71.6%
To establish a state rural credit system to aid agricultural development.	1922	97	131	74.1%	56	67	83.6%
To tax mining of iron and other ores.	1922	100	131	76.3%	49	67	73.1%
To authorize state income tax and to change provisions on tax-exempt property.	1920	101	131	77.1%	48	67	71.6%
To provide a state trunk highway system.	1920	118	131	90.1%	52	67	77.6%
To extend terms of probate judges to four years.	1920	87	131	66.4%	48	67	71.6%
To prohibit the manufacture and the sale of liquor.	1918	86	130	66.2%	49	67	73.1%
To authorize condemnation of private lands for construction of private drainage ditches.	1916	95	130	73.1%	55	67	82.1%
To authorized a revolving fund for improving state school and swamp lands.	1916	71	130	54.6%	45	67	67.2%
To establish initiative and referendum.	1916	98	130	75.4%	55	67	82.1%

Amendment Description	Election Year	House yeas*	House Membership	House % yea	Senate yeas*	Senate Membership	Senate % yea
To increase number of justices of supreme court, and to authorize the court to appoint its own clerk.	1916	74	130	56.9%	51	67	76.1%
To authorize the governor to cut down items in appropriation bills.	1916	77	130	59.2%	51	67	76.1%
To authorize the state to mine ore under public waters.	1916	72	130	55.4%	49	67	73.1%
To authorize investment of school and university funds in first mortgages on improved farms.	1916	89	130	68.5%	41	67	61.2%
To extend terms of probate judges to four years.	1916	70	130	53.9%	46	67	68.7%
To authorize a revolving fund for improving state school and swamp lands.	1914	68	120	56.7%	39	63	61.9%
To authorize special dog taxes and use of proceeds to compensate owners of animals injured by dogs.	1914	64	120	53.3%	33	63	52.4%
To repeal the requirement as to publication of treasurer's report annually in a St. Paul newspaper and also in the biennial session laws.	1914	63	120	52.5%	34	63	54.0%
To establish initiative and referendum.	1914	80	120	66.7%	47	63	74.6%
To limit size of state senate and number of senators from any county.	1914	64	120	53.3%	33	63	52.4%
To authorize state bounties for reforestation	1914	69	120	57.5%	53	63	84.1%
To increase number of justices of supreme court, and to authorize the court to appoint its clerk.	1914	84	120	70.0%	44	63	69.8%
To authorize the recall by the voters of "every public official in Minnesota, elective or appointive."	1914	68	120	56.7%	48	63	76.2%
To authorize certain public lands to be set aside as state forests	1914	67	120	55.8%	33	63	52.4%
To extend terms of probate judges to four years.	1914	79	120	65.8%	42	63	66.7%
To authorize investment of school and university funds in first mortgages on improved farms.	1914	81	120	67.5%	48	63	76.2%
To authorize investment of school and university funds in first mortgages on improved farms.	1912	73	120	60.8%	45	63	71.4%
To amend the municipal home rule clause to authorize commission government and for other purposes.	1912	96	120	80.0%	44	63	69.8%
To authorize a one mill state tax for roads and bridges and to permit state to assume entire cost of any project.	1912	109	120	90.8%	62	63	98.4%
To authorize state hail insurance.	1912	19	120	15.8%	48	63	76.2%

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To limit size of state senate and number of senators from any county.	1912	65	120	54.2%	35	63	55.6%
To authorize legislature to establish educational qualifications for county superintendents of schools.	1912	85	120	70.8%	38	63	60.3%
To authorize state hail insurance.	1910	62	119	52.1%	40	63	63.5%
To authorize reapportionment of legislative representation at any time.	1910	79	119	66.4%	33	63	52.4%
To permit state to assume half the cost of any road or bridge project.	1910	80	119	67.2%	33	63	52.4%
To repeal the requirement as to publication of treasurer's report annually in a St. Paul newspaper and also in the biennial session laws.	1910	76	119	63.9%	44	63	69.8%
To authorize tax exemptions to encourage reforestation.	1910	69	119	58.0%	36	63	57.1%
To authorize and require an annual state tax for reforestation work.	1910	67	119	56.3%	40	63	63.5%
To limit the exemption of church property from taxation to that "used for religious purposes."	1908	71	119	59.7%	43	63	68.3%
To permit unlimited state taxation for road and bridge purposes.	1908	78	119	65.6%	36	63	57.1%
To authorize legislature to establish educational qualifications for county superintendents of schools.	1908	63	119	52.9%	48	63	76.2%
To authorize state hail insurance.	1908	60	119	50.4%	32	63	50.8%
To increase state road and bridge tax, and to	1906	73	119	61.3%	43	63	68.3%
To permit farmers to sell their produce without licenses.	1906	72	119	60.5%	44	63	69.8%
To simplify the taxing provisions by a "wide open" section.	1906	81	119	68.1%	42	63	66.7%
To increase debt limit of municipalities borrowing school and university funds.	1904	78	119	65.6%	40	63	63.5%
To abolish the requirement of a grand jury.	1904	63	119	52.9%	35	63	55.6%
To simplify the taxing provisions of the constitution.	1902	99	119	83.2%	46	63	73.0%
To increase state road and bridge tax, and to eliminate restrictions on expenditure of fund.	1902	81	119	68.1%	34	63	54.0%
To increase debt limit of municipalities borrowing permanent school funds.	1902	82	119	68.9%	41	63	65.1%
To increase debt limit of municipalities borrowing permanent school funds.	1900	71	119	59.7%	37	63	58.7%
To make it more difficult to amend constitution.	1898	59	114	51.8%	35	54	64.8%
To amend the municipal home rule section.	1898	61	114	53.5%	37	54	68.5%

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To permit women to vote for and serve on library boards.	1898	69	114	60.5%	34	54	63.0%
To provide state road and bridge fund.	1898	65	114	57.0%	36	54	66.7%
To prohibit aliens from voting.	1896	72	114	63.2%	36	54	66.7%
To authorize home rule for cities.	1896	65	114	57.0%	46	54	85.2%
To provide flexible system for taxing large corporations.	1896	66	114	57.9%	30	54	55.6%
To take pardoning power from governor and to confer it on a pardon board.	1896	62	114	54.4%	30	54	55.6%
To permit cities, towns and villages, as well as counties and school districts, to borrow school and university funds.	1896	79	114	69.3%	34	54	63.0%
To require compensation for property destroyed or damaged for public use.	1896	72	114	63.2%	36	54	66.7%
To authorize inheritance taxes.	1894	67	114	58.8%	34	54	63.0%

*Vote totals for years 1894 to 2012 were compiled by the staff of the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library, based on available legislative records. Vote totals prior to 1894 are incomplete or unavailable in records maintained by the library.

For additional detail on the standards and procedures for amending the Minnesota Constitution, see the House Research publication *Minnesota Constitutional Amendments: History and Legal Principles*, March 2013.