

2011 Ballot Initiatives Report

By an overwhelming 81%-19%, voters in Arkansas approved nearly \$600 million in bonds to finance expanded transportation improvements in the largest ballot initiative related to the November 8 elections.

Ten of the eleven measures in five states—Colorado, Michigan, Washington, Texas and Arkansas—aimed to increase funding specifically for transportation spending. Six of those funding measures were approved with an average vote of 69 percent.

There were two statewide and nine local ballot measures. Six of the measures were for new or extended taxes, renewals or increases, two initiatives either renewed or proposed a bonding program, two were transportation levies and one regarded toll use.

Voters in the state of Washington considered a proposal (Initiative 1125) that would have reaffirmed the state's 18th Constitutional Amendment, which states motor fuel and vehicle taxes should only be used for highway purposes. The measure would also have required lawmakers to set and approve toll rates and prohibited toll revenues from one project to be used for other transportation projects. Under the proposition, a toll would have to end once the construction work on the related road or bridge was paid off. Opponents to the measure warned that approving the proposition would threaten hundreds of projects in the state. Voters rejected the initiative by a vote of 52 to 48 percent.

The results, consistent with the past four elections, continue to demonstrate strong public support for state and local transportation ballot investment initiatives.

State and Local Transportation Measures for November 8, 2011 Ballots

	Τ	1	Т		T			
State	Location	Type of Change	Mode	How It Relates to Transportation	Amount at ataka	Result	% Yes	9/ No
State	Location	Renewal of bonding		If passed, the special election would renew the state's 1999 Interstate Rehabilitation Program that was previously passed and would maintain the state's diesel tax at 22.5 cents. The program would also allow the Arkansas Highway Commission to issue up to \$575 million in GARVEE Bonds financed by future federal funds, state highway matching funds and the existing state 4-	Amount at stake			% No
Arkansas	Statewide	program	Highways	percent diesel tax passed in 1999.	\$575 million	Passed	81	19
Colorado	Logan County	Sales tax extension	Transit	Voters in Logan County will decide whether to maintain the current sales tax rate. Since 2007, a 0.1 percent portion of the sales tax has been used to help support the South Platte Valley Regional Transportation Authority. The tax subsidizes Prairie Express, which is a fixed-route bus service based in the city of Sterling.		Passed	69	31
	Fort Lupton	Sales tax extension		Issue 2A, if approved, will extend the 0.5 percent street sales tax through 2021. The sales and use tax provides special capital improvement funds to be used for the construction and repairs of streets. If defeated, the tax will expire at the end of 2011.				
Colorado	Town of Calhan	Sales tax	Local roads Local roads	Also named Issue 2A, this measure will increase the current transit sales tax by 1% for the next two years. The revenue will be used to pay for road and bridge repairs and operation costs.		Passed Failed	43	
Colorado		Property tax	Locarroads	The ballot measure seeks to renew a road millage that expired in December 2010. Voters will decide whether to reestablish collection of 1 mill, which amounts to \$1 per \$1,000 of taxable value of a home, for five years. The		i alleu	40	31
Michigan	Township	renewal	Local roads	revenue will be used for road repairs and maintenance in the township.	\$194,226/year	Passed	66	34
		Property tax		Voters in the community of Bay City can cast ballots on whether to increase the current street levy by a rate of \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The five-year, 2-mill tax increase would be applied for local street reconstruction and				
Michigan	Bay City	increase	Local roads	repair.	\$1.14 million/year	Failed	39	61
Michigan	Montcalm County	Transportation levy	Transit	Voters throughout Montcalm County, except for the city of Greenville, can cast ballots on a 0.3 mill increase to pay for a countywide bus system.	\$434,890/year	Failed	39	61
Michigan	Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties	Transportation levy	Transit	Voters in Grand Traverse and Leelanau counties voters will cast ballots on whether to continue to support bus service. The county's ballots include a question on whether to renew the current transportation levy at 0.3454 mills for five years, which amounts to about 35 cents per \$1,000 assessed value. The bus service relies on the mill rate for one-third of its overall budget.	\$2.3 million/year	Passed	75	i 25
	Montgomery County	Road bonds	Local roads	If passed, this measure would allow the issuance of road bonds for the purpose of the construction, maintenance and operation of macadamized, graveled or paved roads and turnpikes, or in aid thereof, and the levying of a tax in payment thereof.	\$200 million	Failed	47	
Texas		Fund diversion /		This measure would prohibit motor vehicle fund revenue and vehicle toll revenue from being used for non-transportation purposes. It would prohibit non-highway use of state highway lanes funded by gas taxes or vehicle tolls. It would require the legislature to set tolls, and would provide that a toll on a particular road or bridge, including the Interstate 90 floating bridge, could be used only for				
Washington	Statewide	tolls	Transportation	construction, operation, or maintenance of that particular road or bridge. Proposition 1 calls for a 0.2 percentage point increase in the sales tax to maintain the Clark County Public Transit Benefit Area Authority (C-Tran). If		Failed	48	52
Washington	Clark County	Sales tax increase	Transportation	approved, C-Tran's share of Clark County's sales tax collection will increase from 0.5 percent to 0.7 percent		Passed	54	. 46