

November 4, 2008, General Election Measure 56

Ballot Title

AMENDS CONSTITUTION: PROVIDES THAT MAY AND NOVEMBER PROPERTY TAX ELECTIONS ARE DECIDED BY MAJORITY OF VOTERS VOTING.

RESULT OF “YES” VOTE: “Yes” vote provides that majority of voters voting in May and November elections may pass local property tax measure to fund schools, police, local services.

RESULT OF “NO” VOTE: “No” vote retains current law where non-votes have effect of “no” vote in certain local elections where less than 50 percent of voters participate.

SUMMARY: Current law requires that 50 percent of voters participate in an election (except general elections in even-numbered years) in order to pass local property tax measures to raise money for schools, police, libraries, parks or other local government services. This means that non-votes have the effect of a “no” vote where less than 50 percent of qualified voters participate. All other elections are determined by a majority of those who vote, with no voter turnout requirements. This measure eliminates the voter turnout requirement for local property tax elections held in May and November. As a result, for such elections, measures to raise money for schools, police, libraries, parks or other local government services become law when approved by a majority of those voting.

Note: The ballot title for Measure 56 was provided by the 2007 Legislature as part of House Bill 2640.