

**Updated: November 2004**

**Minnesota State  
Constitutional Amendments  
Frequency, Number, and Ratification Rates**

**An Analysis**

This analysis provides information about the number, frequency, and passage rate of proposed amendments to the Minnesota Constitution. It includes graphics, a description of the ratification process, and a table showing the yes/no vote for each amendment.

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## Introduction

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When legislators consider a proposal for a constitutional amendment, the question often arises of how to enhance the likelihood of ratification. For example, members may wonder how receptive voters are to the basic concept of constitutional change, whether the chance of ratification is better at a presidential or nonpresidential election, and whether the probability of adoption declines as the number of questions on the ballot increases.

Part I of this research report uses graphs to provide information on these commonly asked questions and tests some additional assumptions on how often the legislature has proposed state constitutional amendments and what proportion of those amendments have been ratified by the voters from the beginning of statehood through the 2004 general election.

Part II of the report explains the state constitutional amending process by which the legislature proposes an amendment and the voters subsequently ratify or reject it.

Part III lists the topic of each amendment that has appeared on the ballot, the year the amendment was on the ballot, whether it was ratified, and what the vote was on it.

## Part I: Statistical Analysis

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This section of the report investigates whether ratification rates for constitutional amendments have varied over time, and whether rates have been affected by such process-related factors as the extraordinary majority requirement, the addition of various new groups of voters, an amendment's appearance on the ballot at a presidential election, the number of questions on the ballot, or the number of times the same question is submitted to the voters.

**Throughout state history the ratification rate has been affected by the number of questions offered at once, the number of times a proposal is submitted, and whether a proposal is offered in a presidential election year. The rate has been most significantly affected by adoption of the extraordinary majority requirement, which took effect in 1900.** The extraordinary majority requirement is discussed in Parts I-B, I-C, and I-D of this report. The effect of the requirement has been to greatly reduce the proportion of suggested amendments ratified by the voters.

The observations in this report are based only on looking at the factors above. They do not take into consideration the very important factor of the substance of given amendments.

### A. Total Amendments Proposed and Ratified

The first graph in this report shows how many amendments have been proposed in each decade of state history and compares that total with how many have been ratified in each decade. The graph shows that the legislature has sent the voters 211 amendments, of which over half, 118, have been adopted. Excluding multiple ballot appearances of proposals that were substantially the same, 177 different amendments have been considered by the voters.

The legislature passed at least one constitutional amendment in 68 out of the 100 regular sessions held between 1857 and 2004.<sup>1</sup> Amendments have also been proposed at six special sessions.<sup>2</sup> The longest period without any amendments passing the legislature has been six regular sessions: from 1999 through 2004.

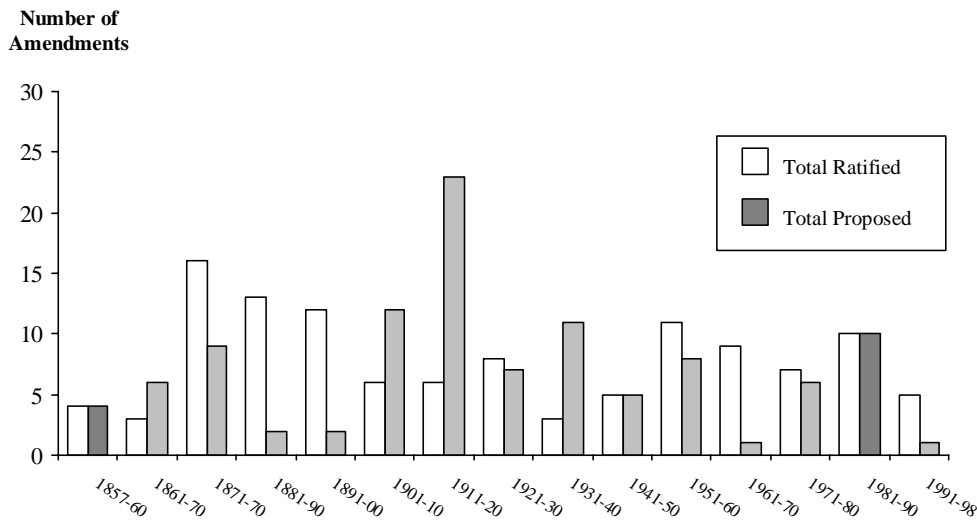
Amendments have appeared on the ballot quite steadily over time. They have not tended to be more or less numerous at any given period, with one exception shown by Figure 1. An unusually large number of amendments (29) was offered during the decade of the 1910s. This phenomenon is particularly interesting because the decade had the lowest ratification rate for any decade; only 20 percent of the proposed amendments offered in the 1910s were adopted.

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<sup>1</sup> *Minnesota Legislative Manual 2003-2004*, St. Paul: Minnesota Secretary of State, 2003: 272-279.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

Figure 1  
**Total Amendments Proposed and Ratified**



Note: No amendments were proposed for 2000 to 2004.

## B. Ratification Rate

### The Extraordinary Majority Requirement

A question that concerns proponents of a constitutional amendment is how willing voters are to ratify amendments. With one major exception, there has been no long-term trend either favoring or disfavoring adoption of amendments. The exception, shown in Figure 2, is that the overall ratification rate has been much lower since imposition of the extraordinary majority requirement in 1900.<sup>3</sup>

The extraordinary majority requirement means that in order to be adopted, an amendment must be approved by a majority of everyone voting at the election, not just of those voting on the amendment. The effect of this requirement is to count nonvoters on the question as “no” votes. This in turn means that a larger proportion (“extraordinary majority”) of those who do vote on an amendment must approve it in order for the amendment to be adopted. The rule of thumb is that

<sup>3</sup> The extraordinary majority was promoted by the liquor industry, which feared a constitutional amendment for prohibition. William Anderson, *A History of the Constitution of Minnesota*, (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 1921): 147, n. 7. The extraordinary majority was supported by 68 percent of those who voted on the question. Only 41 percent of the voters at the election voted on the question. *Minnesota Legislative Manual 2003-2004* p. 274.

a question must receive a 60 percent “yes” vote to be ratified. Intuition suggests that fewer amendments would be ratified under the extraordinary majority system than under the prior system requiring only a simple majority of those voting on the question. The data support this expectation. Before 1900, 72 percent of all proposed amendments were adopted; since that time, 49 percent have succeeded.

Of the proposed amendments rejected during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, only 15 percent had more “no” than “yes” votes. The remaining failed amendments would have been adopted under the 19<sup>th</sup> century “majority on the question” rule.<sup>4</sup>

The appropriate margin of approval for adoption of state constitutional amendments has been discussed at various times in Minnesota history. In the earliest years of statehood, Governor Sibley objected to the provision in the original constitution allowing ratification by a simple majority of those voting on the question. He feared it would subject the constitution to changes resulting from “feverish and temporary excitement.”<sup>5</sup> On the other hand, by 1921, after two decades of experience with the extraordinary majority, commentators feared that the rule would reduce the ability of the constitution to adopt to modern life.<sup>6</sup>

In 1974, after decades of experience with the extraordinary majority, the legislature sent the voters a proposal to reduce the required approval margin to either (1) a majority voting at the election, or (2) 55 percent of those voting on the amendment. The proposal was approved by nearly 59 percent of those who voted on it. However, because of the number of nonvoters on the question, it failed to receive the necessary majority of all those voting at the election and was not ratified.

Figure 2 compares the actual ratification rate since adoption of the extraordinary majority, using the “majority vote at the election rule,” with what the ratification rate would have been if the original “majority vote on the question” rule had stayed in effect.

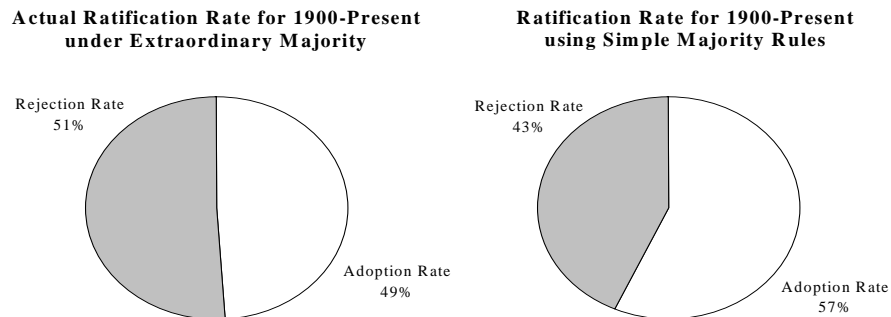
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<sup>4</sup> *Minnesota Legislative Manual 2003-2004*, pp. 272-279.

<sup>5</sup> William Watts Folwell, *A History of Minnesota*, Vol. II (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1956): 23.

<sup>6</sup> Anderson, *A History of the Constitution of Minnesota*, pp. 149-152.

Figure 2



### Other Factors Affecting Ratification

Three other changes affecting the ratification process have occurred during state history. All involved expanding the eligible electorate. The effects of two changes, black male suffrage and reducing the voting age from 21 to 18, cannot be measured by the data available for this report.

Black males in the 19<sup>th</sup> century were a very tiny proportion of all state voters, and, of course, it is impossible to identify the voters' race from ballot totals. For these reasons, the report cannot measure any change in ratification rates that might have resulted from the grant of black male suffrage in 1868.

A state constitutional amendment lowering the voting age to 19 was ratified in 1969. It took effect simultaneously with, and thus was superseded by, the younger age of 18 dictated by amendment to the federal constitution, effective 1972. Vote totals for 1972, which was a presidential election year, were up slightly over those for the 1968 presidential election that preceded the voting age change. However, the data do not permit conclusions about what proportion of the voting increase occurred among those under 21 or how those younger voters voted on amendments proposed at that election.

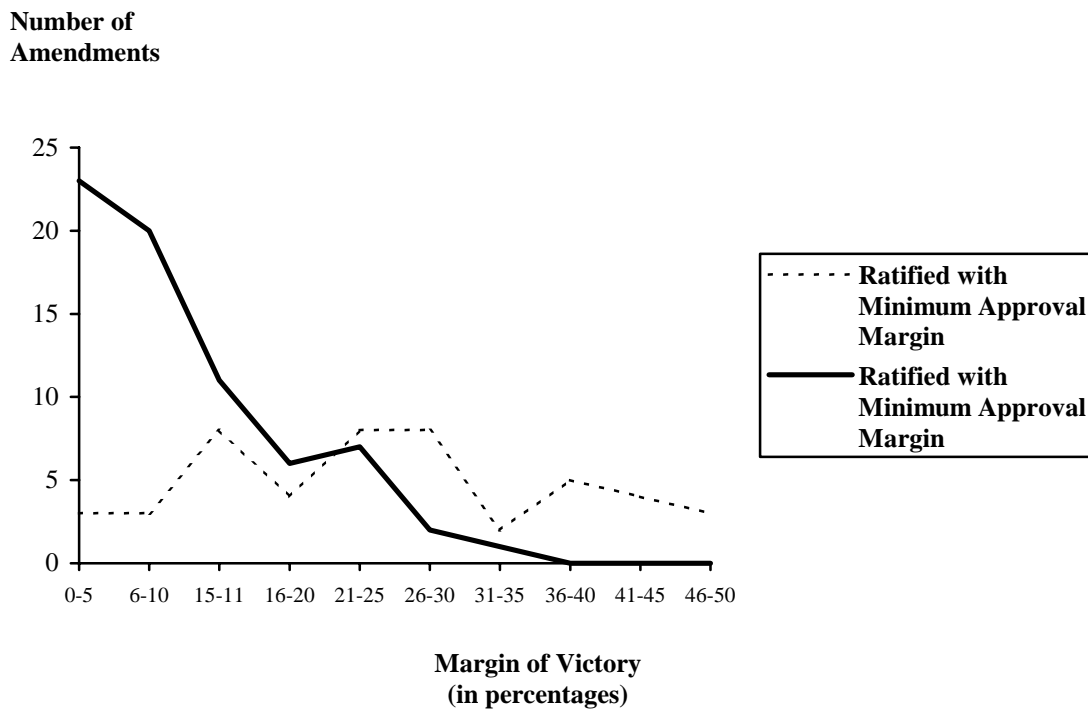
Another expansion of the electorate occurred in 1920 when women were allowed to vote in state elections. There is sufficient data to show that women have been neither more nor less likely than men to ratify constitutional amendments. As in the case of race, the sex of voters cannot be learned from ballot totals. However, women constituted a much larger proportional addition to the voting population in 1920 than black men had in 1868. The voter turnout in 1920 was approximately double what it had been at the last presidential election before women could vote. Thus, if this large group of new voters tended to be either more or less receptive than men to ratifying constitutional amendments in general, a corresponding upward or downward turn in ratification rates beginning in 1920 would be expected. No such trend appears.



### C. Margin of Victory

Figure 2 shows that the overall ratification rate has dropped since the extraordinary majority requirement took effect. Figure 3 shows a corollary to this change. There has been an increase in the proportion of adopted amendments approved by a very slim margin. Before the extraordinary majority requirement only 6 percent of amendments were ratified with the lowest possible margin of votes to spare, which this report defines in Figure 3 as a number less than five percent over the minimum vote needed for adoption. Since the extraordinary majority has been required for passage, 33 percent of all amendments ratified have passed with the minimum approval margin.

Figure 3  
**Margin of Victory Before and After Extraordinary Majority**



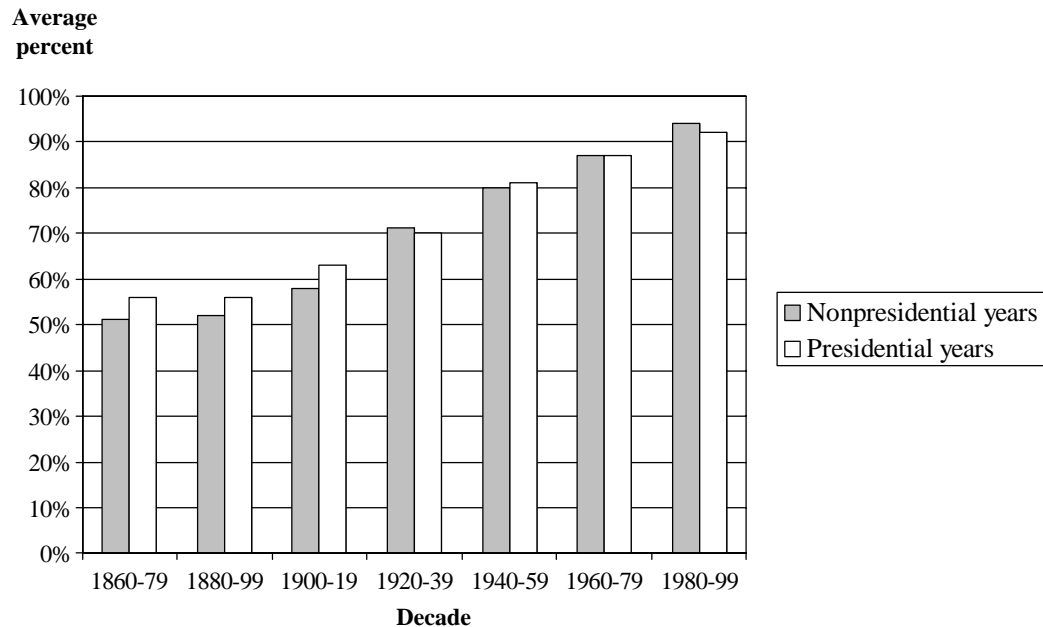
It would be expected that the margin of approval would narrow when voters who fail to vote on an issue are counted as “no” votes. Counting nonvotes as “nos” increases the number deemed to be the total vote on a question. This in turn makes the “yes” votes a smaller percentage of the total vote, which reduces the margin of approval for an amendment.

## D. Ratification Rate at Presidential and Nonpresidential Elections

Legislators considering a constitutional amendment may wonder whether the chance of ratification is enhanced or diminished if the proposal appears on the ballot in a presidential election year. While the proportion of voters voting on constitutional amendments has not varied much between presidential and nonpresidential years, the ratification rate has been historically slightly lower in presidential compared to nonpresidential election years. The presidential election usually generates a higher voter turnout. The question is whether those voters vote on state constitutional amendments or only in the presidential race. In the former case, increased turnout could boost the proportion of “yes” votes. In the latter case, the increase of voters might have a harmful effect on the chance of ratification by enlarging both the number of votes needed for ratification and the number of nonvotes on the amendment that would be counted as “no” votes against the amendment.

First, the report examines the issue of voter participation on constitutional questions in presidential versus nonpresidential election years. Figure 4 shows that the percentage of voters who vote on constitutional amendments has not varied greatly over time between presidential versus nonpresidential election years. Until 1920, a slightly greater percentage of voters voted on constitutional amendments in presidential years. Since that time, there have been periods when a larger percentage of voters voted on constitutional amendments in nonpresidential years, and other periods where there was essentially no difference in the voting rates on constitutional amendments in presidential years versus nonpresidential years.

Figure 4  
Average Percent Voting on Amendments  
Nonpresidential and Presidential Election Years  
(by decade)



Next, the report looks at the ultimate question of the ratification rate. As of the 1986 general election, when an earlier version of this report was prepared, the adoption rate for constitutional amendments was higher in a presidential election year than in a nonpresidential year. At that time, the ratification rate for amendments offered at presidential elections was 57 percent, as compared with a 51 percent adoption rate for those offered in nonpresidential years. When the election years from 1988 to 2004 are factored in, this historic trend has reversed. As of 2004, Figure 5 shows that 54 percent of the amendments proposed in presidential election years have been adopted, as compared with 58 percent of those proposed in nonpresidential election years.

Figure 5  
**Ratification Rate at Presidential and Nonpresidential Elections**

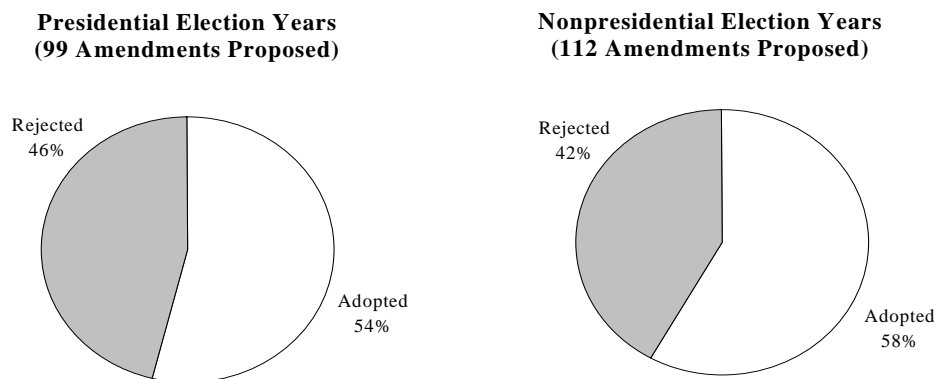
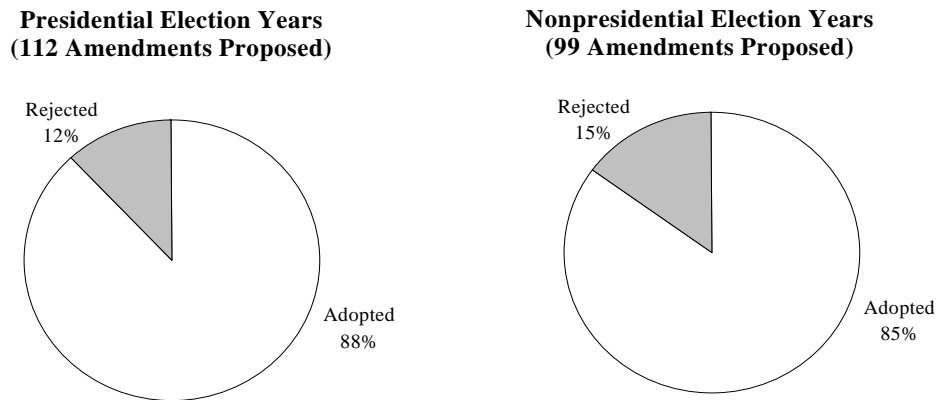


Figure 6 answers an interesting related question: What would have been the ratification rate in presidential election years if the extraordinary majority had never been required? Based on the vote totals shown in Part III of this report, the graph shows that throughout statehood 88 percent of all amendments offered in a presidential election year received the approval of at least a majority of the voters voting on the proposal. In nonpresidential years the analogous approval rate is a slightly lower 85 percent.

**Figure 6 shows yet another perspective that the extraordinary majority requirement is the single most important process-related factor influencing ratification rates—in this instance, much more significant than whether an amendment is offered in a presidential election year.** Again, this analysis does not take into account the significant substantive factor of the content of the proposed amendment.

Figure 6  
**Ratification Rate at Presidential and  
Nonpresidential Elections if Simple Majority Were Enough**

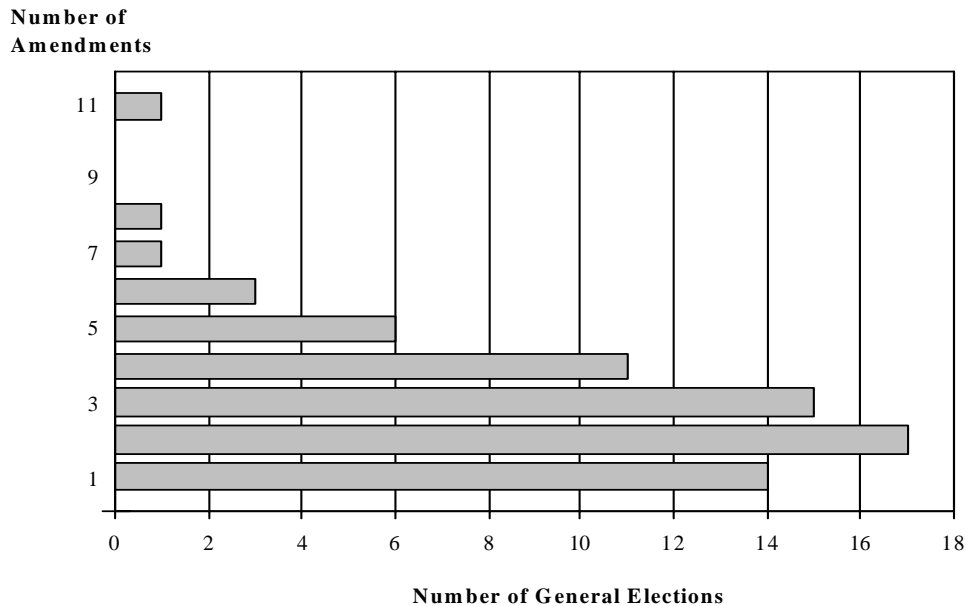


### **E. Number of Amendments Per Election**

Legislators considering a constitutional change sometimes are concerned about how many other amendments may appear on the same ballot with the proposal. They wonder how many amendments voters can be expected to understand or be interested in at one time. Some light may be shed on this issue by reviewing how many amendments typically have been offered at one time throughout statehood.

As Figure 7 shows, two is the most common number of amendments on the ballot per election. The table of constitutional amendments in Part III shows that two, three, or four amendments have been considered at 43 elections in state history at which amendments could have been offered. It is not surprising that only rarely (12 times) have more than four amendments been sent to the voters at one time.

Figure 7  
Number of Amendments Per Election



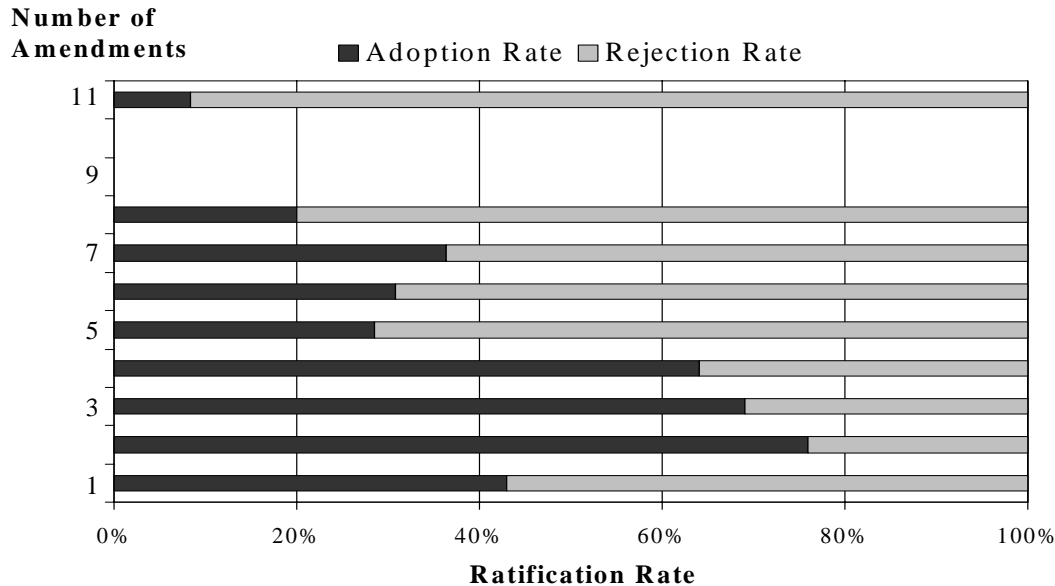
### F. Ratification Rate by Number of Questions on the Ballot

Figure 8 shows the correlation throughout statehood between the number of proposed amendments offered at an election and the percentage of the amendments that are ratified. Some observers of the constitutional amending process believe that the chance of ratification decreases as the number of questions on the ballot increases. The historic data does not entirely justify this inference. **The highest ratification rates occur with two, three, or four questions on the ballot.**

For example, at elections where only one amendment has been on the ballot, 43 percent of the amendments were ratified. By comparison, the ratification is much higher at elections where two, three, or even four amendments are on the ballot together. For elections offering two amendments, the ratification rate is 76 percent; for those proposing three amendments, the ratification rate is 69 percent; and when four have been voted on together, 64 percent have passed.

It is important to stress that Figure 8 looks only at the correlation between ratification and the number of questions on the ballot, omitting such obviously important factors as the substance of the particular amendments that passed or failed.

Figure 8  
**Ratification Rate by Number on the Ballot**



**G. Ratification Rate by Number of Times on the Ballot**

The question may be asked: If an amendment fails, is it realistic to bring it to the voters again? Figure 9 suggests some answers. Only 26 proposed amendments have been submitted to the voters in substantially similar form more than once. Of these, 18 appeared twice, seven appeared three times, and one appeared four times. **When a question fails on its first submission to the voters, the chances of ratification have declined when it was offered a second time. However, the few amendments that have persisted and appeared on the ballot three or four times seem to improve their chances for ratification.** The ratification rate for all questions offered only once is 65 percent; the ratification rate for those offered three or four times (a total of eight proposals) increases to 75 percent.<sup>7</sup>

These observations are based only on looking at the number of times a question appeared on the ballot. They do not take into consideration important factors such as the substance of the

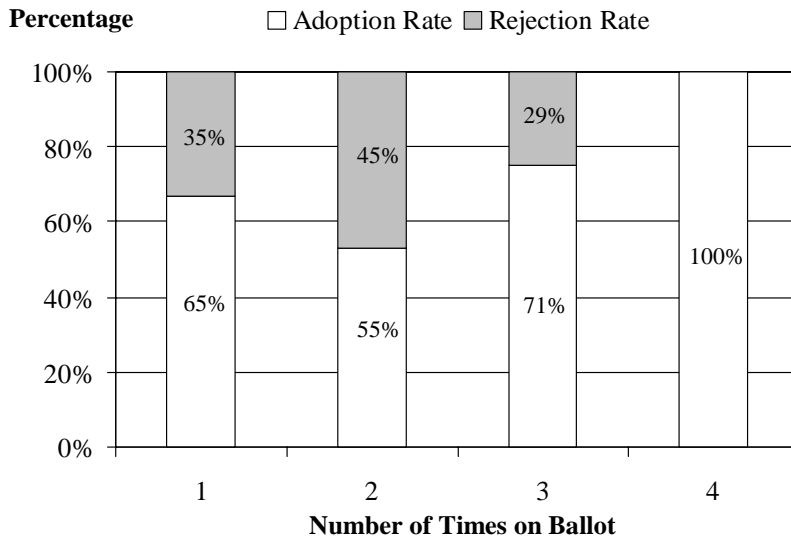
<sup>7</sup> The proposed amendments that failed after being offered three times were: state hail insurance (1908, 1910, 1912) and initiative and referendum (1914, 1916, 1980).

Proposals that succeeded after three attempts were: black male suffrage (1865, 1867, 1868); authority to exchange state land for federal and private land (1934, 1936, 1938); increased debt limit for municipalities borrowing school and university funds (1900, 1902, 1904); authority to invest school and university funds in farm mortgages (1912, 1914, 1916); and four-year terms for probate judges (1914, 1916, 1920).

The proposal that succeeded after four submissions involved changing requirements for publishing proposed city and village charter amendments (1924, 1938, 1940, 1942).

amendment and the length of time between the repeated submissions, which along with the number of submissions would influence whether an amendment is ratified.

Figure 9  
**Ratification Rate by Number of Times on the Ballot**



## **Part II: How a Constitutional Amendment is Ratified**

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The Minnesota Constitution and the election statutes govern the ratification process. The process begins when the legislature passes an act proposing a change in the constitution. Although a constitutional amendment is proposed in the form of a session law, it does not require the governor's signature and cannot be vetoed. The act includes the statement of the question the legislature wants placed on the ballot. As required by the constitution, the act is assigned a session law chapter number, published with other legislative acts of the same year, and presented to the voters at the next general election. By statute, at least four months before the election, the Attorney General prepares for the Secretary of State a statement of each amendment's purpose and effect. The statement shows the constitutional sections to be amended and how they will read after the amendment. In October of the election year, the Secretary of State publishes this statement in every qualified newspaper and distributes sufficient copies to county auditors so that two copies may be posted in each polling place on election day.

When the state white ballot is prepared, the secretary also prepares a pink ballot for constitutional amendments to be used in all precincts that use paper ballots. The secretary, on advice from the Attorney General, prepares a short title to identify each amendment on the ballot. The ballot question specified by the legislature appears under the title. The text of the constitution as it would appear if amended is not printed on the ballot. Sample copies of the pink paper ballot are available for public examination at the secretary's office four weeks before the general election and at each county auditor's office three weeks before. Sample ballots showing both constitutional amendments and the offices to be voted on are prepared by county auditors.

On electronic voting systems, the title of each amendment and the question specified by the legislature is placed in the same booklet with the candidates. Questions appear just after the last candidate's name on the white (state) ballot, and preceding the canary (county) ballot.

In the act proposing an amendment, the legislature may designate the order in which constitutional amendments will be listed on the ballot if there is more than one amendment at an election. Otherwise the Secretary of State will designate the order. During the 1990s, questions were placed on the ballot in the order they passed the legislature.

As noted earlier, the constitution provides that the approval of a majority voting at the election, not just a majority voting on the question, is needed to ratify a constitutional amendment. Failure to vote on an amendment is thus the equivalent of a "no" vote. A notice to this effect is printed on the pink ballot and on the portion of an electronic voting system ballot that contains constitutional amendments.

If the state canvassing board finds that a proposed amendment received the approval of a majority of the voters at the election, the governor will announce by proclamation that the amendment is adopted.



## Part III: Amendments Proposed to the Minnesota Constitution

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Information in this section is from the *Minnesota Legislative Manual 2003-2004*, pages 272 to 279.

### Notes to the table:

**Year on Ballot:** An amendment does not always appear on the ballot the same year it passes the legislature. Until 1878, both regular sessions and elections were held annually, so a question went to the voters the year the legislature proposed it. Beginning in 1881 there were biennial regular sessions until annual sessions resumed in 1974. Beginning in 1884 elections were also held biennially, so questions have been on the ballot only in even years since 1880.

**Total Vote at Election:** Beginning in 1900, approval of a majority of all the voters *at the election* (not just a majority voting on the amendment) was required to adopt an amendment. For years prior to 1900, the figure given is the vote for governor or president; total vote was not calculated for those years.

Number Amend.	Year on Ballot	Purpose of Amendment	Adopted or Rejected	Yes Vote	No Vote	Total Vote at Election
1	1858	Authorize \$5,000,000 railroad loan	A	25,023	6,733	Special election*
2	1858	Establish state government May 1, 1858	A	25,023	6,733	Special election*
3	1860	Limit legislative sessions to 60 days	A	19,785	442	34,737
4	1860	Require popular approval of tax to pay railroad bonds and repeal the \$5,000,000 amendment	A	18,648	743	34,737
5	1865	Authorize Negroes to vote	R	12,135	14,651	31,160
6	1867	Authorize Negroes to vote	R	27,479	28,794	64,376
7	1867	Subject shares in state and national banks to state taxation	R	8,742	34,351	64,376
8	1868	Authorize Negroes to vote	A	39,493	30,121	71,818
9	1868	Abolish requirement of grand jury	R	14,763	30,544	71,818

\* From its beginning, the Minnesota Constitution has provided for adopting amendments only at a general election. Despite this provision, the first two amendments to the constitution were adopted at a special election held before Minnesota was admitted to statehood. The constitution was ratified by the voters at a special election held October 13, 1857, as part of preparing to apply for statehood. The question of the constitution was combined on the ballot with candidates for state offices in a way that made it difficult for a voter to reject the constitution. In December 1857, the state legislature met as a state legislature (as opposed to a territorial) legislature for the first time. On April 15, 1858, another special election was held where the first amendments to the state constitution were adopted. On May 11, 1858, President James Buchanan signed the act admitting Minnesota to statehood. For discussion of the validity of the state's various actions behaving as a state before it was admitted to the union, see Anderson, *A History of the Constitution of Minnesota* (1921) pp. 133-43.

Number Amend.	Year on Ballot	Purpose of Amendment	Adopted or Rejected	Yes Vote	No Vote	Total Vote at Election
10	1868	Authorize sale of 500,000 acres of internal improvement lands and investment of proceeds in state or national securities	R	19,398	28,729	71,818
11	1869	Abolish Manomin County	A	13,392	1,671	54,525
12	1869	Authorize special assessments for local improvements	A	26,636	2,560	54,525
13	1870	Exempt holders of railroad stock from double liability	R	7,446	11,210	Legislative election
14	1871	Require popular approval of changes in railroad gross earnings tax law	A	41,814	9,216	78,172
15	1871	Authorize state loan for asylum buildings	R	6,724	40,797	78,172
16	1872	Authorize state loan for asylum buildings	A	29,158	26,881	90,919
17	1872	Exempt stockholders in manufacturing or mechanical businesses from double liability	A	23,091	21,794	90,919
18	1872	Restrict issuance of county, town, and municipal bonds to aid railroads	A	27,916	7,796	90,919
19	1872	Provide for sale of internal improvement lands	A	55,438	4,331	90,919
20	1873	Provide for biennial sessions of legislature	R	14,007	31,729	77,057
21	1873	Extend terms of representatives and senators to two and four years, respectively	R	11,675	24,331	77,057
22	1873	Provide for state canvassing board	R	12,116	25,694	77,057
23	1873	Provide more effectively for the safekeeping of public funds	A	27,143	5,438	77,057
24	1875	Provide for an indefinite number of judges in each judicial district	A	22,560	18,534	84,017
25	1875	Authorize legislature to grant women suffrage in school affairs	A	24,340	19,468	84,017
26	1875	Prescribe manner in which school funds could be invested	A	28,755	10,517	84,017
27	1875	Establish single liability for stockholders in ordinary business corporations	R	16,349	25,858	84,017
28	1876	Authorize governor to veto items of appropriation bills	A	47,302	4,426	123,931
29	1876	Establish single liability for stockholders in all corporations except banks	R	21,721	22,830	123,931
30	1876	Authorize district judges to sit on supreme court bench when supreme court justices disqualified	A	41,069	6,063	123,931
31	1877	Establish biennial sessions of legislature	A	37,995	20,833	98,614

Number Amend.	Year on Ballot	Purpose of Amendment	Adopted or Rejected	Yes Vote	No Vote	Total Vote at Election
32	1877	Extend terms of representatives and senators to two and four years, respectively	A	33,072	25,099	98,614
33	1877	Provide for state canvassing board	A	36,072,	21,814	98,614
34	1877	Authorize women to vote in local option elections	R	26,468	32,963	98,614
35	1877	Prohibit use of state school funds to support sectarian schools	A	36,780	16,667	98,614
36	1877	Establish single liability for stockholders in all corporations except banks	R	24,415	26,020	98,614
37	1877	Authorize sale of internal improvement lands and use of proceeds to pay railroad bonds	R	17,324	59,176	98,614
38	1879	Restrict issuance of county, town, and municipal bonds to aid railroads	A	54,810	1,700	99,048
39	1881	Authorize levy of water-main assessments on a frontage basis	A	35,019	18,320	102,193
40	1881	Remove time limitation from sessions of legislature	R	Not Available		102,193
41	1881	Regulate compensation of legislators	R	Not Available		102,193
42	1881	Prohibit special legislation on certain subjects	A	56,491	8,369	102,193
43	1881	Provide for sale of swamp lands and appropriation of proceeds of swamp land funds	A	51,903	8,440	102,193
44	1883	Make auditor's term four years, to conform to system of biennial elections	A	74,375	24,359	130,713
45	1883	Establish the official year and to provide for a system of biennial elections	A	75,782	24,082	130,713
46	1883	Make term of clerk of supreme court four instead of three years	A	73,565	24,016	130,713
47	1883	Make terms of justices of supreme court six instead of seven years	A	73,565	24,016	130,713
48	1883	Make terms of district judges six years instead of seven years	A	73,565	24,016	130,713
49	1886	Provide for loans of state school funds to counties and school districts	A	131,533	17,914	220,558
50	1888	Prohibit the monopolization of the markets of food products	A	194,932	13,064	261,632
51	1888	Guarantee the payment of liens of workmen and materialmen out of exempted property	A	153,908	48,649	261,632
52	1888	Extend biennial sessions of legislature to 90 days each	A	150,003	52,946	261,632
53	1890	Provide for verdicts by five-sixth of jury in civil cases	A	66,929	41,341	240,892
54	1892	Extend and strengthen the prohibition against special legislation	A	77,614	19,583	255,921

<b>Number Amend.</b>	<b>Year on Ballot</b>	<b>Purpose of Amendment</b>	<b>Adopted or Rejected</b>	<b>Yes Vote</b>	<b>No Vote</b>	<b>Total Vote at Election</b>
55	1892	Authorize various gross earnings taxes and a tonnage tax on iron ore	R	53,372	82,910	255,921
56	1894	Authorize inheritance taxes	A	108,332	41,242	296,249
57	1896	Take pardoning power from governor and confer it on a pardon board	A	130,354	45,097	337,229
58	1896	Prohibit aliens from voting	A	97,980	52,454	337,229
59	1896	Authorize home rule for cities	A	107,086	58,312	337,229
60	1896	Require compensation for property destroyed or damaged for public use	A	101,188	56,839	337,229
61	1896	Permit cities, towns, and villages, as well as counties and school districts, to borrow school and university funds	A	127,151	36,134	337,229
62	1896	Provide flexible system for taxing large corporations	A	163,694	42,922	337,229
63	1898	Permit women to vote for and serve on library boards	A	71,704	43,660	252,562
64	1898	Make it more difficult to amend constitution	A	69,760	32,881	252,562
65	1898	Amend the municipal home rule section	A	68,754	32,068	252,562
66	1898	Provide state road and bridge fund	A	70,043	38,017	252,562
67	1900	Increase debt limit of municipalities borrowing permanent school funds	R	108,681	30,160	314,181
68	1902	Increase state road and bridge tax, and eliminate restrictions on expenditure of fund	R	114,969	23,948	276,071
69	1902	Increase debt limit of municipalities borrowing permanent school funds	R	116,766	20,777	276,071
70	1902	Simplify the taxing provisions of the constitution	R	124,584	21,251	276,071
71	1904	Increase debt limit of municipalities borrowing school and university funds	A	190,718	39,334	322,692
72	1904	Abolish the requirement of a grand jury	A	164,055	52,152	322,692
73	1906	Simplify the taxing provisions by a "wide open" section	A	156,051	46,982	284,366
74	1906	Increase state road and bridge tax, and reduce restrictions on expenditure of funds	A	141,870	49,232	284,366
75	1906	Permit farmers to sell their produce without licenses	A	190,897	34,094	284,366
76	1908	Limit the exemption of church property from taxation to that "used for religious purposes"	R	134,141	65,776	355,263
77	1908	Permit unlimited state taxation for road and bridge purposes	R	154,226	56,557	355,263
78	1908	Authorize state hail insurance	R	137,710	61,084	355,263

<b>Number Amend.</b>	<b>Year on Ballot</b>	<b>Purpose of Amendment</b>	<b>Adopted or Rejected</b>	<b>Yes Vote</b>	<b>No Vote</b>	<b>Total Vote at Election</b>
79	1908	Authorize legislature to establish educational qualifications for county superintendents of schools	R	169,785	42,114	355,263
80	1910	Permit state to assume half the cost of any road or bridge project	A	159,746	44,387	310,165
81	1910	Repeal the requirement of annual publication of treasurer's report in a St. Paul newspaper and in the biennial session laws	R	123,787	51,650	310,165
82	1910	Authorize state hail insurance	R	108,926	63,205	310,165
83	1910	Authorize reapportionment of legislative representation at any time	R	95,181	61,520	310,165
84	1910	Authorize and require an annual state tax for reforestation work	R	100,168	63,962	310,165
85	1910	Authorize tax exemptions to encourage reforestation	R	87,943	73,697	310,165
86	1912	Authorize a one-mill state tax for roads and bridges and permit state to assume entire cost of any project	A	195,724	51,135	349,678
87	1912	Authorize state hail insurance	R	145,173	60,439	349,678
88	1912	Authorize investment of school and university funds in first mortgages on improved farms	R	168,440	39,483	349,678
89	1912	Amend the municipal home rule clause to authorize commission government and for other purposes	R	157,086	41,971	349,678
90	1912	Authorize legislature to establish educational qualifications for county superintendents of schools	R	167,983	36,584	349,678
91	1912	Limit size of state senate and number of senators from any county	R	122,457	77,187	349,678
92	1914	Establish initiative and referendum	R	168,004	41,577	356,906
93	1914	Increase number of justices of supreme court and authorize the court to appoint its clerk	R	127,352	68,886	356,906
94	1914	Authorize a revolving fund for improving state school and swamp lands	R	162,951	47,906	356,906
95	1914	Repeal the requirement of annual publication of treasurer's report in a St. Paul newspaper and in the biennial session laws	R	131,213	58,827	356,906
96	1914	Authorize investment of school and university funds in first mortgages on improved farms	R	159,531	38,145	356,906
97	1914	Extend terms of probate judges to four years	R	128,601	64,214	356,906
98	1914	Limit size of state senate and number of senators from any county	R	98,144	84,436	356,906
99	1914	Authorize state bounties for reforestation	R	108,352	63,782	356,906

Number Amend.	Year on Ballot	Purpose of Amendment	Adopted or Rejected	Yes Vote	No Vote	Total Vote at Election
100	1914	Authorize certain public lands to be set aside as state forests	A	178,954	44,033	356,906
101	1914	Authorize the recall by the voters of "every public official in Minnesota, elective or appointive"	R	139,801	44,961	356,906
102	1914	Authorize special dog taxes and use of proceeds to compensate owners of animals injured by dogs	R	136,671	59,786	356,906
103	1916	Authorize a revolving fund for improving state school and swamp lands	A	240,975	58,100	416,215
104	1916	Authorize investment of school university funds in first mortgages on improved farms	A	211,529	56,147	416,215
105	1916	Authorize the state to mine ore under public waters	R	183,597	64,255	416,215
106	1916	Increase number of justices of supreme court and authorize the court to appoint its own clerk	R	130,363	108,002	416,215
107	1916	Authorize the governor to reduce items in appropriation bills	R	136,700	83,324	416,215
108	1916	Authorize condemnation of private lands for construction of private drainage ditches	R	132,741	97,432	416,215
109	1916	Establish initiative and referendum	R	187,711	51,544	416,215
110	1916	Extend terms of probate judges to four years	R	186,847	72,361	416,215
111	1918	Prohibit the manufacture and the sale of liquor	R	189,614	173,665	380,604
112	1920	Provide a state trunk highway system	A	526,936	199,603	797,945
113	1920	Extend terms of probate judges to four years	A	446,959	171,414	797,945
114	1920	Authorize state income tax and change provisions on tax-exempt property	R	331,105	217,558	797,945
115	1922	Establish a state rural credit system to aid agricultural development	A	534,310	73,917	714,630
116	1922	Authorize an occupation tax on mining	A	474,697	91,011	714,630
117	1924	Authorize the state to place all revenue from excise tax on motor fuels in trunk high fund	A	520,769	197,455	869,151
118	1924	Change the requirements for publication of proposed amendments to the charters of cities and villages	R	246,414	200,391	869,151
119	1924	Establish state-owned and -operated public terminal grain elevators	R	253,732	257,492	869,151
120	1924	Promote forestation and reforestation and provide for a forest land tax and a yield tax on timber products	R	428,407	143,977	869,151

Number Amend.	Year on Ballot	Purpose of Amendment	Adopted or Rejected	Yes Vote	No Vote	Total Vote at Election
121	1924	Authorize the state and its political subdivisions to borrow money for prevention of forest fires	A	460,965	143,518	869,151
122	1926	Promote forestation and reforestation and provide for special taxation	A	383,003	127,592	722,781
123	1926	Provide for one chief justice and six associate justices on state supreme court	R	331,964	148,784	722,781
124	1926	Authorize the legislature to limit stockholder liability	R	323,322	140,422	722,781
125	1928	Authorize the legislature to limit stockholder liability	R	506,065	223,725	1,070,274
126	1928	Distribute the gasoline tax to the trunk highway fund and the road and bridge fund	A	542,796	346,109	1,070,274
127	1930	Authorize the legislature to limit stockholder liability	A	486,818	135,345	828,401
128	1930	Provide two elective associate supreme court justices to replace appointed court commissioners	A	428,013	130,833	828,401
129	1930	Authorize exchange of state public land for federal land	R	378,716	174,231	828,401
130	1932	Authorize exchange of state public land for federal land	R	433,913	258,257	1,054,203
131	1932	Permit the taxation of motor vehicles of companies paying taxes under the gross earnings system of taxation	A	537,292	227,634	1,054,203
132	1932	Authorize the taxation of lands acquired through rural credit system and apportion money from the funds of the Department of Rural Credit to local tax districts	R	468,101	261,856	1,054,203
133	1932	Authorize taxation on income, franchises, and privileges of railroad companies; authorize enactment of laws to make the taxation of national banking associations conform to federal law	R	420,052	409,924	1,054,203
134	1934	Authorize the legislature to add new routes to the trunk highway system	R	509,074	279,877	1,064,332
135	1934	Authorize the taxation of lands acquired through rural credit system and apportion money from the funds of the Department of Rural Credit to local tax districts	R	496,017	215,623	1,064,332
136	1934	Exempt all household goods and farm machinery and equipment from taxation	A	630,125	181,126	1,064,332
137	1934	Authorize exchange of state public land for federal and private land	R	468,617	216,760	1,064,332

<b>Number Amend.</b>	<b>Year on Ballot</b>	<b>Purpose of Amendment</b>	<b>Adopted or Rejected</b>	<b>Yes Vote</b>	<b>No Vote</b>	<b>Total Vote at Election</b>
138	1934	Define and limit the facilities of educational institutions which are tax exempt	R	472,374	247,166	1,064,332
139	1936	Authorize exchange of state public lands for federal and private lands	R	448,917	397,106	1,164,268
140	1936	Eliminate tax on real and tangible personal property	R	355,588	543,847	1,164,268
141	1938	Authorize exchange of state public lands for federal and private lands	A	609,046	259,007	1,144,926
142	1938	Change the requirements for publishing proposed amendments to the charters of cities and villages	R	488,370	260,152	1,144,926
143	1940	Change the requirements for publishing proposed amendments to the charters of cities and villages	R	635,815	287,286	1,301,573
144	1942	Change the requirements for investment or loan of the permanent school and permanent university funds	A	415,012	190,563	818,182
145	1942	Change the requirements for publishing proposed amendments to the charter of cities and villages	A	459,868	144,842	818,182
146	1944	Permit the state to construct, maintain, and operate airports; authorize taxes on aircraft fuel and aircraft sales	A	737,091	264,149	1,195,397
147	1948	Alter the proportionate distribution of the gasoline tax to the highway fund and the road fund	R	534,538	539,224	1,257,804
148	1948	Authorize the submission of two or more amendments without requiring voters to vote separately on each	R	319,667	621,523	1,257,804
149	1948	Provide that two-thirds of the members of each branch of the legislature may call a constitutional convention without submitting the question to a vote of the people	R	294,842	641,013	1,257,804
150	1948	Authorize the state to pay compensation to persons who served in the armed forces from 1940-1946	A	664,703	420,518	1,257,804
151	1950	Assign portion of occupation mining tax to the Veterans Compensation Fund	A	594,092	290,870	1,067,967
152	1950	Authorize forestry management funds by diverting certain proceeds (25 percent) from the public land trust fund	R	367,013	465,239	1,067,967
153	1950	Distribute 6 percent of the gasoline tax to cities of over 100,000 population for road and street purposes	R	420,530	456,346	1,067,967



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154	1952	Change the requirements for investment or loan of the permanent school and permanent university funds	R	604,384	500,490	1,460,326
155	1952	Provide that any revision of the constitution be put before the voters at the next general election and require a three-fifths vote for ratification	R	656,618	424,492	1,460,326
156	1952	Clarify who may vote	R	716,670	371,508	1,460,326
157	1952	Provide that the qualifications of a probate court judge may be established by law and allow the legislature to increase the jurisdiction of the probate courts by a two-thirds vote	R	646,608	443,005	1,460,326
158	1952	Alter the distribution of the excise tax on motor vehicles by allocating funds to local governmental units, in addition to the trunk highway fund	R	580,316	704,336	1,460,326
159	1954	Provide that the qualifications of a probate court judge may be established by law and allow the legislature to increase the jurisdiction of the probate courts by a two-thirds vote	A	610,138	303,838	1,168,101
160	1954	Authorize the legislature to limit and regulate the liability of stockholders of state banks	A	624,611	290,039	1,168,101
161	1954	Provide for a 60 percent popular vote before a new state constitution can be ratified and remove constitutional bar precluding members of the legislature from serving in a constitutional convention	A	638,818	266,434	1,168,101
162	1954	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	A	636,237	282,212	1,168,101
163	1956	Permit the legislature to reorganize the judicial power of the state	A	939,957	307,178	1,443,856
164	1956	Consolidate the articles of the constitution pertaining to roads, gasoline, and vehicle taxes in one article pertaining to public highways and alter the distribution of highway funds	A	1,060,063	230,707	1,443,856

Number Amend.	Year on Ballot	Purpose of Amendment	Adopted or Rejected	Yes Vote	No Vote	Total Vote at Election
165	1956	Authorize the legislature to divert 50 percent of the occupation mining tax proceeds earmarked for education from permanent trust funds to current educational needs	A	1,084,627	209,311	1,443,856
166	1958	Authorize the legislature to revise and consolidate provisions relating to local government, home rule, and special laws	A	712,552	309,848	1,178,173
167	1958	Provide for four-year terms for state constitutional officers to take effect for terms beginning in 1963	A	641,887	382,505	1,178,173
168	1958	Permit members of the legislature to hold certain elective and nonelective state offices	R	576,300	430,112	1,178,731
169	1960	Provide for succession to the office of governor; provide for continuity of government in emergencies caused by enemy attack	A	974,486	305,245	1,577,509
170	1960	Eliminate the provisions governing the franchise of Indians; authorize prescribing by law the place where a person who has recently moved may vote	A	993,186	302,217	1,577,509
171	1960	Allow an extra legislative session for reapportionment if reapportionment is not completed during the regular session	R	600,797	661,009	1,577,509
172	1960	Extend the regular legislative session; restrict the time during which bills may be introduced; set qualifications for legislators to be candidates for other elective office	R	763,434	501,429	1,577,509
173	1962	Consolidate the Swamp Land Fund and Permanent School Fund; make the fund perpetual and regulate its investment	A	828,880	288,490	1,267,502
174	1962	Allow state to contract long- and short-term debts for public improvements upon approval of three-fifths of both houses of the legislature	A	728,255	385,723	1,267,502
175	1962	Extend the maximum term of the regular legislative term from 90 days to 120 days	A	706,761	393,538	1,267,502
176	1964	Prevent amendment or repeal of taconite tax policies for 25 years; authorize legislature to impose limitations for not more than 25 years on taxation of copper and nickel mining	A	1,272,590	204,133	1,586,173

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177	1964	Remove obsolete language and provisions from constitution	A	1,089,798	254,216	1,586,173
178	1966	Permit legislators to run for other offices and to provide for resignations of legislators	R	575,967	471,427	1,312,208
179	1968	Allow legislators to assume another elective or appointive office upon resignation from the legislature or completion of term	A	1,012,235	359,088	1,601,515
180	1968	Allow legislature three days after adjournment to present bills to governor; allow governor 14 days to sign or veto a bill	A	1,044,418	316,916	1,601,515
181	1970	Allow the legislature to define or limit certain categories of tax-exempt property	A	969,774	287,858	1,388,525
182	1970	Reduce voting age from 21 to 19 years; provide age requirement of 21 years to hold public office	A	700,449	585,890	1,388,525
183	1972	Reorganize the state judicial system; provide for appointment of clerks of district court; authorize discipline and removal of judges	A	1,012,916	531,831	1,773,838
184	1972	Provide for joint election of governor and lieutenant governor; remove the lieutenant governor as the presiding officer of the senate	A	1,064,580	503,342	1,773,838
185	1972	Authorize bonus payment to veterans of Vietnam War and levying taxes for that purpose	A	1,131,921	477,473	1,773,838
186	1972	Permit flexible legislative sessions	A	968,088	603,385	1,773,838
187	1974	Revise the language of the constitution	A	815,064	311,781	1,296,209
188	1974	Ease vote requirement to amend constitution	R	638,775	474,519	1,296,209
189	1974	Permit legislature to establish rate and method of taxing railroads	A	741,353	372,158	1,296,209
190	1976	Permit proceeds from increases in motor fuel taxes to be used for general purposes; remove restrictions on interest rate and amount of highway bonds	R	552,543	1,134,847	1,978,590
191	1980	Remove restrictions on the interest rate and the amount of highway bonds	R	964,212	823,192	2,079,411
192	1980	Establish initiative and referendum	R	970,407	850,251	2,079,411
193	1980	Require campaign spending limits for executive and legislative offices and public disclosure of campaign spending for all state candidates	A	1,457,454	398,551	2,079,411
194	1980	Establish a bipartisan reapportionment commission	R	1,036,581	754,935	2,079,411

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195	1980	Remove requirement of senate approval for notaries public	R	944,883	850,251	2,079,411
196	1982	Allow the creation of a court of appeals	A	1,304,127	385,738	1,834,737
197	1982	Remove the restrictions on the interest rate and the amount of trunk highway bonds	A	1,103,221	563,865	1,834,737
198	1982	Permit the legislature to authorize on-track pari-mutuel betting on horse racing	A	1,108,255	624,721	1,834,737
199	1982	Provide state bonding authority to improve and rehabilitate railroad facilities	A	1,201,321	492,736	1,834,737
200	1984	Allows limits on investment of the permanent school fund and apportionment of its returns to be set by law	A	1,139,390	631,378	2,114,842
201	1984	Allow exchange of state lands for other state or local government land	A	1,176,809	611,200	2,114,842
202	1988	Establish a Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund for environmental, natural resources, and wildlife purposes	A	1,645,090	375,752	2,125,119
203	1988	Allow the use of juries of less than 12 members in civil and nonfelony cases	A	1,205,730	806,766	2,125,119
204	1988	Permit the legislature to authorize a lottery operated by the state	A	1,214,032	843,307	2,125,119
205	1990	Dedicate 40 percent of the state lottery proceeds to the environment and natural resources trust fund until the year 2001	A	1,388,105	329,806	1,843,104
206	1994	Permit off-track wagering on horse racing in a manner prescribed by law	R	841,277	847,802	1,794,618
207	1996	Authorize a bonus for Persian Gulf War veterans	A	1,334,409	740,039	2,211,161
208	1996	Provide for recall of elected state officials	A	1,833,523	248,778	2,211,161
209	1998	Extend the use of lottery for environmental trust fund	A	1,556,895	460,747	2,105,343
210	1998	Preserve hunting and fishing heritage	A	1,570,720	462,749	2,105,343
211	1998	Abolish the office of state treasurer	A	1,087,789	855,853	2,105,343

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