

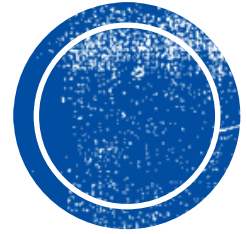






**THE  
COOL  
KIDS.**





# BALLOT INITIATIVE TRENDS



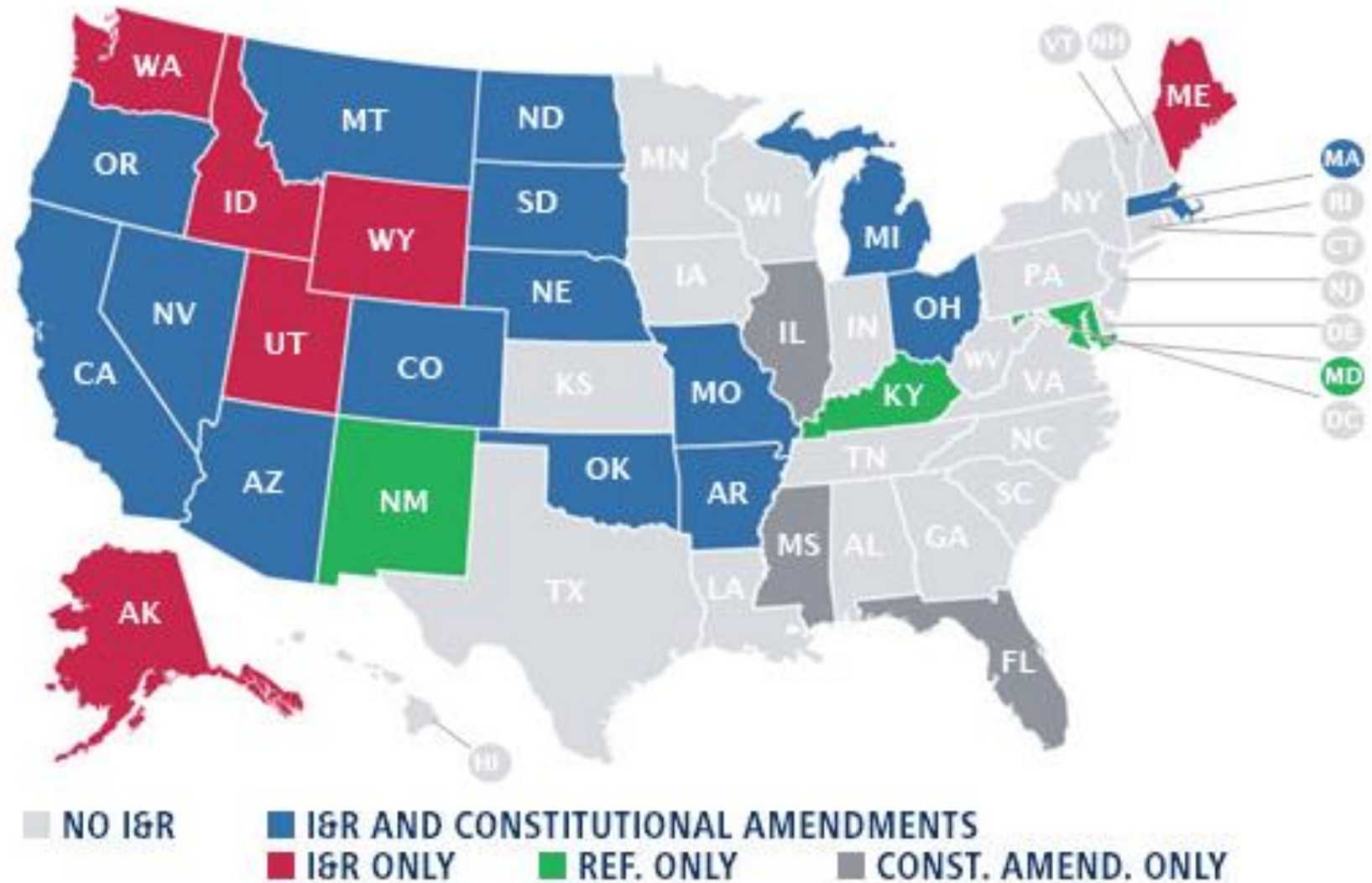


# 2018 BALLOTS AT A GLANCE

- 137 Measures have qualified for the ballot in 34 states
- Ballots set for 2018 – all deadlines have passed (except OK, which 9/6)
- Upswing noted since 2016 in direct democracy through ballot measures
- Interesting trends to watch in 2018



# BALLOT STATES





# 2018 BALLOTS AT A GLANCE

## Hot Button Topics

- Marijuana Legalization
- Abortion
- Medicaid Expansion (NE, ID and UT)
- Voting Rights

## State Specific Issues & One-offs

- Alabama 10 Commandments initiative
- California Permanent Daylight Savings Time
- North Carolina Hunting & Fishing
- Bond Renewals

## Taxes

- 18 states have tax-related ballot initiatives
- Total of 29 measures or 21% of the total ballot measures in 2018
- 18 legislatively referred & 11 from citizen petitions



# TOP TRENDS ON TAX BALLOT INITIATIVES

- “Run of the Mill”...:
  - Little spending for & against
  - Generally nips on property or sales taxes
  - Benefit for legislators to let voters decide instead of tackling
  - Local government most concerned about eroding tax base
- **Examples:**
  - FL: increase homestead property tax deduction by \$25k
  - VA, LA & UT have amendments re: property tax exemptions for active military & their families
  - MO (amendment D): asks voters to approve motor fuel tax increase to fund Highway Patrol





# INITIATIVES TO WATCH

- Big, Interesting, Resourced Initiatives
  - Has advocates or opponents willing to spend resources on them and spending into the six-figures
  - About nine of these big proposals on the ballot in 2018
  - Seeing a trend of initiatives seeking to prevent or remove goods and services from sales taxation (e.g. Realtors amendments)
  - High earners initiatives to fund education or other programs
  - Tax caps or limits
  - Medicaid Expansion by way of ballot initiative





# TOP TRENDS: “INTERESTING” TAX BALLOT INITIATIVES

- High Earners Tax Initiatives
- TABOR/Supermajority Requirements
- Medicaid Expansion
- Goods and Services
- Tax Caps & Limits





# HIGH EARNERS TAX INITIATIVES

## Arizona: Invest in Ed Case Study:

- Deal struck by admin & teachers not funded
- Ballot campaign & the policy initiated through teachers movement
- High earners tax would fund education
- Polled high & gained broad support
- AZ Supreme Court ruling illuminates risk of ballot initiatives
- Possible path to legislative referral
- Maine is considering a similar initiative this year to fund home care services





# SUPERMAJORITY INITIATIVES

## Florida: Amendment 5 (&1)

- Crowded ballot in FL – 13 questions
- Attention & resources focused on #4 – voting rights restoration
- Legislatively referred and supported by Governor – political considerations
- Florida ranks at the bottom in terms of education, health funding – no income tax
- Could jeopardize future school funding and Medicaid Expansion efforts if passed
- Local government groups, teachers unions, opposed to measure





# MEDICAID EXPANSION BY BALLOT

- Has emerged as a route to Medicaid expansion – Maine passed by ballot in 2017
- In addition to NE – MedEx initiatives on the ballot in UT, ID and MT
- Have generally seen high support in polling
- Could see other states head this route in the future





# GOODS & SERVICES

- General trend in initiatives that prevent taxation on goods & services
- Some designed to head off state governments looking for new sources of revenue
- Many are citizen referred – though groups funded by big business
- Examples to Watch:
  - AZ Prop 126 – prevents taxing services, Realtors driven
  - Oregon Measure 103 – prohibits new taxes on groceries
  - FL Amendment 1 - cap on non-homestead property tax assessments





# TAX CAPS AND LIMITS

- North Carolina Case Study:
  - Legislatively referred cap on income tax rate at 7%
  - Original House proposal was lower at 5.5% (tax rate current at 5.45%)
  - Being looked at as a political maneuver in advance of potential legislative shift in November
  - Business community against the measure – lobbied against it







**POLLING PLACE**  
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PR 9206 LUCAS RUIZ ESTORIL  
PR 9206 FONDOS PHILIP

