

Ballot Proposal 1 of 2026



STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

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Proposal 26-1
November 3, 2026 General Election
Placed on the ballot by constitutional requirement
Complete to 10-7-26

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

Proposal 26-1 would convene a constitutional convention for the purpose of drafting a general revision to the state constitution. The following is the official language as it will appear on the ballot:

Proposal 2026-1 A PROPOSAL TO CONVENE A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DRAFTING A GENERAL REVISION OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION Shall a convention of elected delegates be convened in 2027 to draft a general revision of the State Constitution for presentation to the state's voters for their approval or rejection? ☐ YES ☐ NO
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BACKGROUND:

Section 3 of Article XII of the state constitution requires “the question of a general revision of the constitution” to be submitted to the voters in 1978 and every sixteenth year afterward (1994, 2010, 2026, 2042, etc.).¹ Voters rejected the calling of a constitutional convention by large margins in 1978, 1994, and 2010.²

Currently, there is no statutory language in place to fully implement this section of the state constitution. If Proposal 26-1 passes, the legislature would have to enact laws for the election of delegates and to provide funding for the convention, among other requirements. If the proposal is rejected, it would automatically be placed on the ballot again in 2042.

How would a convention work?

Under section 3 of Article XII, if a majority of voters decide in favor of a convention, delegates would have to be selected in a partisan election no later than six months after the date the approval was certified.³ The voters in each of the 110 House of Representatives districts and each of the 38 Senate districts would elect a delegate, for a total of 148 delegates.

¹ <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=mcl-Article-XII-3>

² Despite rejecting proposals to convene a constitution convention, Michigan voters have approved 39 amendments (out of 82 attempts) to the current constitution since its adoption on April 1, 1963, via the legislative proposal and ballot initiative processes. A comprehensive list of amendments is available [here](#) (pages 2 to 6).

³ The Board of State Canvassers is set to meet to canvass the 2026 general election on November 23, 2026, which would mean that the election to choose delegates would have to be held by May 22, 2027.

The elected delegates would then convene in Lansing on the first Tuesday in October after the election (October 5, 2027), or earlier if provided by law. The constitutional convention would be authorized to do all of the following:

- Choose its own officers.
- Determine the rules of its proceedings.
- Judge the qualifications, elections, and returns of its members.
- Appoint any officers, employees, and assistants it considers necessary and establish their compensation.
- Provide for the printing and distribution of documents, journals, and proceedings.
- Explain and disseminate information about the proposed constitution.

Delegates would be compensated as provided by law. (As described below, a 1958 law setting compensation rates and limits for constitutional convention delegates is still in effect.) In the event of a vacancy in the office of a delegate, the governor would have to appoint a qualified resident of the same House or Senate district who is a member of the same party as the delegate vacating the office.

There is no constitutional or statutory time limit for a constitutional convention. The most recent convention lasted roughly 10 months, convening in Lansing on October 3, 1961, and adjourning on August 1, 1962.⁴

What could a convention do?

The state constitution is silent on the matters that could be addressed by a constitutional convention, which means that a convention is subject only to constraints imposed by the U.S. Constitution and, eventually, to approval by the electorate. A convention could produce an entirely new document, make only a handful of substantive amendments, or simply eliminate obsolete language or provisions that have been found to violate the U.S. Constitution. Conversely, a convention could decide to make no changes at all and leave the current constitution in place as is.

To be adopted, any proposed new constitution or amendment to the current constitution would require the approval of a majority of all delegates elected to and serving in the convention. All proposals adopted by the convention would then be submitted (as a single document) to Michigan voters no earlier than 90 days after the final adjournment of the convention and would take effect only upon the approval of a majority of voters.

FISCAL IMPACT:

If approved by voters, Proposal 26-1 would result in substantial costs to the state, estimated at approximately \$78.3 million (assuming that current delegate compensation caps are adjusted for inflation). The state would incur costs from administering the convention and reimbursing local costs for administering required elections. Actual costs could vary significantly and would depend on various factors described below that are unknown at this time, most notably the length of time the constitutional convention is active, delegate and staff salaries, and the number of elections held and requiring reimbursements to local units of government.

⁴ A brief overview of Michigan constitutional conventions is available [here](https://cremich.org/PUBLICAT/2020s/2026/rpt42502-a-brief-michigan-constitutional-history.pdf). Also see this history of Michigan's constitutions: <https://cremich.org/PUBLICAT/2020s/2026/rpt42502-a-brief-michigan-constitutional-history.pdf>

Convention costs

Costs of holding a constitutional convention would include those for delegates' salaries, staff salaries, travel expenses, convention facility rent, printing, dissemination of information, etc. Public Act 204 of 1958, still in force, provided for the compensation and mileage of delegates to the constitutional convention held in 1961 and 1962. The act caps delegate salaries and travel expenses, respectively, at \$1,000 per month with a \$7,500 maximum per delegate and 10 cents per mile for one round-trip drive to Lansing each month. Total delegate salary costs for 148 delegates, as capped by the 1958 act, would be \$1.1 million.

Assuming that the caps set in statute for delegate compensation are updated for inflation and are equal to the compensation paid to delegates as valued in 1962, these amounts today would equal roughly \$11,166 per month, to a \$83,745 maximum, and \$1.12 per mile, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index.

Costs would also depend on the number of paid staff and their compensation. The 1958 act does not cap costs related to staff salaries or other costs. The state constitution of 1963 provides that "The convention shall have power to appoint such officers, employees and assistants as it deems necessary and to fix their compensation." The cost of staff, rent, printing, and other expenses for the 1962 convention was \$920,000, or 84% of the cost of delegates' salaries.

Costs would largely depend on the length of time the convention is active. The 1962 convention lasted from October 3, 1961, to August 1, 1962, with compensated time just over seven months. This period contained approximately 7.5 monthly pay periods, or the maximum time before the \$7,500 salary cap would take effect. The 1962 convention conducted a comprehensive overhaul of the previous constitution, which likely contributed to its duration; however, it is possible that a convention held now could last as long or longer, owing to the number of issues that have been identified that it could address. There is no limit placed on the length of the convention, and it could conceivably continue for multiple years. In the absence of statutory limits, state costs would correspond to any increase in the length of the convention and could be significant.

Assuming that a new convention lasts for the same length of time and has similar costs to those of the 1962 convention (including a statutory raising of delegate compensation caps), the convention would cost approximately \$22.3 million (\$12.0 million for delegates' salaries and \$10.3 million for staff salaries and other expenses). If the \$7,500 cap on delegate compensation is retained in statute and revised for inflation, total costs for delegates' salaries would remain approximately \$12.0 million even if the convention extends beyond seven months. Staff salaries, convention center rent, and other costs, however, could continue to accumulate. It is not known how modern technology would affect costs. Technology could provide savings through new potential efficiencies or produce costs from needed equipment, computer hardware, software, or licensing.

Election costs

Proposal 26-1 could result in additional state costs related to reimbursing local units of government for conducting elections if elections required for it are held on dates that do not otherwise have an election scheduled for those local units.⁵

⁵ Michigan has three regular election dates, in May, August, and November.

Based on costs of the 2024 presidential primary election, one statewide election would cost approximately \$28.0 million. The cost of elections increased 68% from 2020 to 2024, based largely on the new early voting requirements for federal and statewide elections. If three elections for a 2027 convention were scheduled when no other statewide elections were concurrently scheduled, total election costs could reach up to approximately \$84.0 million.

The state constitution requires an election to select constitutional convention delegates “to be held not later than six months after the proposal was certified as approved.” It is unlikely that a statewide election would be concurrently scheduled with either a primary or general election for convention delegates in 2027, an odd-numbered election year. The state constitution also requires that the election to ratify proposed changes to the constitution be held 90 or more days after final adjournment of the convention. The likelihood of this election’s aligning with scheduled August primaries or the November general election in 2028 is greater. For estimating purposes, due to the likelihood of at least one required convention election occurring with another scheduled election, the cost of two elections, at \$56.0 million, is assumed.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.