

# LegislativeUpdate

Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators | October 5, 2018



## In this update:

- Summary
- House Ed Moves Evaluation Bills
- Statewide Ballot Proposals: What You Need to Know
- Register Soon: State Board of Education Candidate Forum

### Summary

This was the last week of scheduled session days until the election. With just over 32 days left until polls close, all eyes will be on election results. To say it's a high stakes election is probably an understatement. Control of the House, Senate, and all four executive branch offices will be decided by Michiganders, and that will have a huge impact on the last two months of 2018, as well as the next two years. This

will be the last planned update until lawmakers return in November, but keep an eye out for important alerts and information from MASA.

As always, please contact [MASA](#) with any questions or concerns.

### House Ed Moves Moves Evaluation Bills

On Thursday, the House Education Reform Committee voted 14-1 to advance HBs 5707 and 6401. These bills revise the increase in percentage for student growth on year-end evaluations to keep that percentage at 25% for teachers and administrators, respectively. Recall that this year the percent of year-end evaluations that was to be based upon student growth data was set to increase to 40%. MASA testified in support of these bills and is encouraging swift passage when lawmakers return in November.

Right now, we are advising members to plan for 40%, but continue to advocate in favor of the bills. Time is running out for a resolution in 2018 and we remain cautiously optimistic, but the reality is, current law states 40% and that's what we advise members to use.

### Statewide Ballot Proposals: What You Need to Know

Three initiatives will appear on all ballots statewide this year. Several members have asked for the facts on these three proposals.

#### *Proposal 18-1: Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol*

If passed this initiative would allow individuals 21 and older to purchase marijuana and marijuana-infused edibles. The smoking or consumption of marijuana in public would still be illegal. The proposal permits an individual to grow a maximum of 12

marijuana plants for personal consumption and plants must be grown in a restricted and secure area. The proposal allows individuals to possess a maximum of 2.5 ounces of marijuana outside of their homes, and a maximum of 10 ounces of marijuana that is stored at their home. Any amount over 2.5 ounces would be required to be kept in a locked container. An individual may possess up to 15 grams of marijuana concentrate. The possession or consumption of marijuana on school property would not be allowed.

In terms of marijuana sales, the proposal includes a requirement that a state licensing system for marijuana businesses be created. Municipalities would have the authority to ban or restrict them. Retail sales of marijuana and edibles will be subject to a 10% excise tax in addition to Michigan's regular 6% sales tax. According to the literature from the Coalition's website, the distribution of tax revenue will include:

- 35 percent to the State School Aid Fund for K-12 public education
- 35 percent to the Michigan Transportation Fund for the repair and maintenance of roads and bridges
- 15 percent to municipalities where a marijuana business is located
- 15 percent to counties where a marijuana business is located

Companies can still discipline, fire or refuse to hire an employee due to marijuana use. Driving under the influence of marijuana will remain illegal. Additionally, marijuana establishments will not be allowed to cultivate, process, sell, or display marijuana or marijuana products anywhere that is visible to the public. You can find more information on this proposal [here](#).

#### *Proposal 18-2: Voters Not Politicians*

This proposal would establish a commission of citizens with authority to adopt district boundaries for the Michigan Senate, Michigan House of Representatives and U.S. Congress every 10 years. The proposal would create a commission of 13 registered voters randomly selected by the Secretary of State, 4 that self-identify as affiliated with the 2 major political parties and 5 who self-identify as unaffiliated with major political parties. The proposal states that partisan officeholders, candidates and their employees, lobbyists, and employees of political action committees are all prohibited from serving on the commission. Additionally, any parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, or spouse of those not permitted to be on the

commission are also disqualified. Beyond those restrictions, any registered Michigan voter can apply to serve on the Commission. Applications may ask for things like name, address where registered to vote, basic demographic information, and political party affiliation. From the qualified applicants, the Secretary of State's Office will randomly select the commission members through a process outlined within the proposal. Commissioners will serve until the new voting maps have been adopted. A new Commission will form every ten years after each Census.

The commission would establish new redistricting criteria and take into consideration existing boundaries such as cities, townships, and counties. You can find more information about this process [here](#).

#### *Proposal 18-3: Promote The Vote*

This proposal would authorize automatic and Election Day voter registration, no-reason absentee voting, and straight-ticket voting. If passed this initiative would allow individuals to be automatically registered to vote when applying for, renewing, or updating a driver's license or state-issued personal identification card. An individual may decline.

The proposal allows a citizen to register to vote until 15 days before an election either by mail or in person. Within 15 days of an election, a citizen would be able to register to vote in person with proof of residency, including on Election Day. Individuals would be able to obtain an absentee voter ballot without providing a reason and cast a straight-ticket vote for all candidates of a particular political party when voting in a partisan general election. More information on this proposal can be found [here](#).

Finally, there were three other proposals that the legislature took action on, therefore they are not eligible to appear on the ballot:

- Protecting Michigan Taxpayers: Proposed initiated law to repeal the Prevailing Wages and Fringe Benefits Act.
- Michigan One Fair Wage: Proposed initiated law to gradually increase the hourly minimum wage from \$10.00 in 2019 to \$12.00 in 2022.

- MI Time to Care: Proposed initiated law to require employers to provide sick leave for personal or family health reasons, subject to certain conditions.