

Name:

Date:

Your “Ridiculously Short Guide” to State and Local Government

Use pages 694-700 to help you with the next few questions.

1. From Colonial Governorships came our modern title, “_____”. Ours is Rick _____. There have only been 23 of these to date!



2. The governor is chosen by _____, and most serve for _____ years once elected. Governors die just like the rest of us, so when this happens, it “sets off a game of political musical chairs in the State. When this happens, usually the _____ is the first in line to take over. Michigan’s is Brian Calley, and he is the second youngest in Michigan’s history.

3. Governors (and ALL public officials for that matter) are not perfect. Most states allow for governors to be impeached and removed. In some states (like Michigan), the governor (and ALL public officials) may be removed by a **RECALL**. Explain this below:

4. Based on the definition of a recall, do you believe that this happens very often?

Other ways citizens can monitor and influence state and local governments is by taking direct part in lawmaking through the **initiative and referendum process**. Through the **initiative** process, voters themselves can propose constitutional amendments through the initiative, a process in which a certain number of qualified voters sign petitions in favor of a proposal. The proposal then goes directly to the ballot, for approval or rejection by the people. A **referendum** is a process, by which a legislative measure is referred to the State’s voters for final approval or rejection (Page 693)

About Michigan Initiative & Referendum

Under the new provisions, it took 39,000 signatures to put a constitutional amendment initiative on the 1914 ballot. The first two initiatives that won voter approval were on the ballot in 1932: a measure to establish a liquor control commission passed overwhelmingly, and an amendment to limit property taxes won 51.1 percent of the vote. In 1938, voters passed an amendment specifying that gas and vehicle weight tax money must be used for roads and streets. The following year, in an April special election, they approved a system for the nonpartisan election of judges. In 1946, voters enacted an initiative to ensure that part of the state's sales tax revenues were returned to the municipalities; in 1948, they modified the property tax limitation. In 1976, voters approved by a two-to-one margin a measure that a 10-cent deposit on bottles and cans. In 1998, the voters rejected a physician assisted suicide initiative and in 2000 defeated a school voucher initiative that was sponsored by Amway founder Dick DeVos.

Ten initiatives have come before the voters in the first decade of the 21st century, many of them attracting national interest. In 2000, voters rejected 39-61 a proposal to create a voucher system for public schools. In 2004, voters amended the state constitution 59-41 to define marriage as solely between one man and one woman, effectively banning same-sex marriage. In 2006, voters approved 58-42 an initiative that prohibited the state from discriminating against or providing preferential treatment on the basis of race, ethnicity, and gender. In 2008, voters legalized the use of marijuana for medical purposes, and removed certain restrictions on embryonic stem cell research.

6. What type of issues in Holt/ Lansing do you think would be best solved by a referendum or initiative? Explain your answer.

7. The state gets its revenue (\$ to then spend on projects around the state) from different types of taxes. The _____ is the MOST PRODUCTIVE source of State income today. It accounts of _____ of all tax monies the States collect each year. What is a **sales tax**? Explain below.

8. The sales tax is a REGRESSIVE tax. What does this mean?

9. Do you believe that sales taxes are fair, or should they be based on a person's ability to pay?

State Sales, Gasoline, Cigarette, and Alcohol Taxes

As of February 1, 2010

	Sales Tax (a)	Gas Tax Per Gallon (k, l)	Cigarette Tax Per 20- Pack	Spirits Tax (Per Gallon)	Table Wine Tax (Per Gallon)	Beer Tax (Per Gallon)
Alabama	4%	20.9¢	\$0.425	\$18.78 (n)	\$1.70	\$1.05 (u)
Alaska	none	8.0¢	\$2.00	\$12.80	\$2.50	\$1.07
Arizona	5.6% (b)	19.0¢	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$0.84	\$0.16
Arkansas	6%	21.8¢	\$1.15	\$2.58	\$0.77	\$0.21
California	8.25% (w)	46.6¢	\$0.87	\$3.30	\$0.20	\$0.20
Colorado	2.9%	22.0¢	\$0.84	\$2.28	\$0.28	\$0.08
Connecticut	6%	41.9¢	\$3.00	\$4.50	\$0.60	\$0.20
Delaware	none (c)	23.0¢	\$1.60	\$5.46	\$0.97	\$0.16
Florida	6%	34.5¢	\$1.339	\$6.50	\$2.25	\$0.48
Georgia	4%	12.4¢	\$0.37	\$3.79	\$1.51	\$1.01 (v)
Hawaii	4% (d)	44.4¢	\$2.80 (m)	\$5.98	\$1.38	\$0.93
Idaho	6%	25.0¢	\$0.57	\$10.96 (n)	\$0.45	\$0.15
Illinois	6.25%	39.0¢	\$0.98	\$8.55	\$1.39	\$0.231
Indiana	7%	34.1¢	\$0.995	\$2.68	\$0.47	\$0.115
Iowa	6%	22.0¢	\$1.36	\$12.47 (n)	\$1.75	\$0.19
Kansas	5.3%	25.0¢	\$0.79	\$2.50	\$0.30	\$0.18
Kentucky	6% (e)	22.5¢	\$0.60	\$6.46 (o)	\$0.50 (o)	\$0.08 (o)
Louisiana	4%	20.0¢	\$0.36	\$2.50	\$0.11	\$0.32
Maine	5%	31.0¢	\$2.00	\$5.21 (n)	\$0.60	\$0.35
Maryland	6%	23.5¢	\$2.00	\$1.50	\$0.40	\$0.09
Massachusetts	6.25%	23.5¢	\$2.51	\$4.05	\$0.55	\$0.11
Michigan	6%	35.0¢	\$2.00	\$10.91 (n)	\$0.51	\$0.20
Minnesota	6.875%	27.2¢	\$1.504	\$5.03	\$0.30	\$0.15
Mississippi	7%	18.8¢	\$0.68	\$6.75 (n)	\$0.427	\$0.427
Missouri	4.225%	17.3¢	\$0.17	\$2.00	\$0.42	\$0.06
Montana	none	27.8¢	\$1.70	\$8.62 (n)	\$1.06	\$0.14
Nebraska	5.5%	27.7¢	\$0.64	\$3.75	\$0.95	\$0.31
Nevada	6.85%	33.1¢	\$0.80	\$3.60	\$0.70	\$0.16
New Hampshire	none	19.6¢	\$1.78	(q)	(p)	\$0.30
New Jersey	7%	14.5¢	\$2.70	\$5.50	\$0.875	\$0.12
New Mexico	5.5% (g)	18.8¢	\$0.91	\$6.06	\$1.70	\$0.41
New York	4%	44.6¢	\$2.75	\$6.44	\$0.30	\$0.14
N. Carolina	5.75%	30.2¢	\$0.45	\$13.39 (n)	\$2.34	\$0.9971
N. Dakota	5%	23.0¢	\$0.44	\$2.50	\$0.50	\$0.16
Ohio	5.5% (h)	28.0¢	\$1.25	\$9.04 (n)	\$0.32	\$0.18
Oklahoma	4.5%	17.0¢	\$1.03	\$5.56	\$0.72	\$0.40
Oregon	none	25.0¢	\$1.18	\$24.63 (n)	\$0.67	\$0.0839
Pennsylvania	6%	32.3¢	\$1.60	\$6.54 (n)	(p)	\$0.08
Rhode Island	7%	33.0¢	\$3.46	\$3.75	\$0.60	\$0.11
S. Carolina	6%	16.8¢	\$0.07	\$5.42 (t)	\$1.08	\$0.77
S. Dakota	4%	24.0¢	\$1.53	\$3.93 (s)	\$0.93 (s)	\$0.27
Tennessee	7%	21.4¢	\$0.62	\$4.40	\$1.21	\$0.14 (r)
Texas	6.25% (i)	20.0¢	\$1.41	\$2.40	\$0.204	\$0.20
Utah	5.95% (w)	24.5¢	\$0.695	\$11.41 (n)	(p)	\$0.41
Vermont	6%	24.5¢	\$2.24	\$0.68 (n)	\$0.55	\$0.265
Virginia	5% (w)	19.5¢	\$0.30	\$20.13 (n)	\$1.51	\$0.2565
Washington	6.5% (j)	37.5¢	\$2.025	\$26.45 (n)	\$0.87	\$0.26
West Virginia	6%	32.2¢	\$0.55	\$1.85 (n)	\$1.00	\$0.18
Wisconsin	5%	32.9¢	\$2.52	\$3.25	\$0.25	\$0.06
Wyoming	4%	14.0¢	\$0.60	(q)	(p)	\$0.019
D.C.	6%	23.5¢	\$2.50	\$1.50	\$0.30	\$0.09

10. Based on the chart to the left, what is Michigan's sales tax rate compared to other states around the country?

Would it be better to have a consistent tax rate throughout the nation? Explain.

Why do different states have different sales tax rates?