STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS CONSIDERED

Abbreviations: *–figure not available; s–special election; p–number of votes cast for president; g–number of votes cast for governor; l–legislative election; t–total number of persons voting at election.

Year	Purpose of Amendment	Adopted or Rejected	Yes	No	Vote Election
1858	To authorize $5 million railroad loan.	A	25,023	6,733	31,756s
1858	To establish state government May 1, 1858.	A	25,023	6,733	31,756s
1860	To limit legislative sessions to 60 days.	A	19,785	442	34,737p
1860	To require popular approval of tax to pay railroad bonds: to repeal the $5 million amendment.	A	18,648	743	34,737p
1865	To authorize Negroes to vote.	R	12,135	14,651	31,160g
1867	To authorize Negroes to vote.	R	27,479	28,794	63,376g
1867	To subject shares in state and national banks to state taxation.	R	8,742	34,351	64,376g
1868	To authorize Negroes to vote.	A	39,493	30,121	71,818p
1868	To abolish requirement of grand jury.	R	14,763	30,544	71,818p
1868	To authorize sale of 500,000 acres of internal improvement lands and investment of proceeds in state or national securities.	R	19,398	28,729	71,818p
1869	To abolish Manomin county.	A	13,392	1,671	54,525g
1869	To authorize special assessments for local improvements.	A	26,636	2,560	54,525g
1870	To exempt holders of railroad stock from double liability.	R	7,446	11,210	18,656l
1871	To require popular approval of changes in railroad gross earnings tax law.	A	41,814	9,216	78,172g
1871	To authorize state loan for asylum buildings.	R	6,724	40,797	78,172g
1872	To authorize state loan for asylum buildings.	A	29,158	26,881	90,919p
1872	To exempt stockholders in manufacturing or mechanical businessesfrom double liability.	A	23,091	21,794	90,919p
1872	To restrict issuance of county, town, and municipal bonds to aid railroads.	A	27,916	7,796	90,919p
1872	To provide for sale of internal improvement lands.	A	55,438	4,331	90,919p
1873	To provide for biennial sessions of the legislature.	R	14,007	31,729	77,057g
1873	To extend terms of representatives and senators to two and four years, respectively.	R	11,675	24,331	77,057g
1873	To provide for state canvassing board.	R	12,116	25,694	77,057g
1873	To provide more effectively for the safekeeping of public funds.	A	27,143	5,438	77,057g
1875	To provide for an indefinite number of judges in each judicial district.	A	22,560	18,534	84,017g
1875	To authorize the legislature to grant women suffrage in school affairs.	A	24,340	19,468	84,017g
1875	To prescribe manner in which school funds could be invested.	A	28,755	10,517	84,017g
1875	To establish single liability for stockholders in ordinary business corporations.	R	16,349	25,858	84,017g
1876	To authorize governor to veto items of appropriation bills.	A	47,302	4,426	123,931p
1876	To establish single liability for stockholders in all corporations except banks.	R	21,721	22,830	123,931p
1876	To authorize district judges to sit on supreme bench when supreme court justices disqualified.	A	41,069	6,063	123,931p
1877	To establish biennial sessions of legislature.	A	37,995	20,833	98,614g
1877	To extend terms of representatives and senators to two and four years, respectively.	A	33,072	25,099	98,614g
1877	To provide for state canvassing board.	A	36,072	21,814	98,614g
1877	To authorize women to vote in local	R	26,468	32,963	98,614g

	option elections.				
1877	To establish single liability for stockholders in all corporations except banks.	R	24,415	26,020	98,614g
1877	To authorize sale of internal improvement lands and use of proceeds to pay railroad bonds.	R	17,324	59,176	98,614g
1877	To prohibit use of state school funds to support sectarian schools.	A	36,780	16,667	98,614g
1879	To restrict issuance of county, town, and municipal bonds to aid railroads.	A	54,810	1,700	99,048g
1881	To authorize levy of water-mains assessments on a frontage basis.	A	35,019	18,320	102,193g
1881	To remove time limitations from sessions of legislature.	R	*	*	102,193g
1881	To regulate compensation of legislators.	R	*	*	102,193g
1881	To prohibit special legislation on certain subjects.	A	56,491	8,369	102,193g
1881	To provide for sale of swamp lands and appropriation of proceeds of swamp land funds.	A	51,903	8,440	102,193g
1883	To make auditor's term four years, to conform to system of biennial elections.	A	74,375	24,359	130,713g
1883	To establish the official year and to provide for a system of biennial elections.	A	75,782	24,082	130,713g
1883	To make term of clerk of supreme court four instead of three years.	A	73,565	24,016	130,713g
1883	To make terms of justices of supreme court six instead of seven years.	A	73,565	24,016	130,713g
1883	To make terms of district judges six instead of seven years.	A	73,565	24,016	130,713g
1886	To provide for loans of state school funds to counties and school districts.	A	131,533	17,914	220,558g
1888	To prohibit the monopolization of the markets of food products.	A	194,932	13,064	261,632g
1888	To guarantee the payment of liens of workmen and material-men out of exempted property.	A	153,908	48,649	261,632g
1888	To extend biennial sessions of legislature to 90 days each.	A	150,003	52,946	261,632g
1890	To provide for verdicts by 5/6 of jury in civil cases.	A	66,929	41,341	240,892g
1892	To extend and strengthen the prohibition against special legislation.	A	77,614	19,583	255,921g
1892	To authorize various gross earnings taxes and a tonnage tax on iron ore.	R	53,372	82,910	255,921g
1894	To authorize inheritance taxes.	A	108,332	41,242	296,249g
1896	To take pardoning power from governor and to confer it on a pardon board.	A	130,354	45,097	337,229g
1896	To prohibit aliens from voting.	A	97,980	52,454	337,229g
1896	To authorize home rule for cities.	A	107,086	58,312	337,229g
1896	To require compensation for property destroyed or damaged for public use.	A	101,188	56,839	337,229g
1896	To permit cities, towns and villages, as well as counties and school districts, to borrow school and university funds.	A	127,151	36,134	337,229g
1896	To provide flexible system for taxing large corporations.	A	163,694	42,922	337,229g
1898	To permit women to vote for and serve on library boards.	A	71,704	43,660	252,562g
1898	To make it more difficult to amend constitution.	A	69,760	32,881	252,562g
1898	To amend the municipal home rule section.	A	68,754	32,068	252,562g
1898	To provide state road and bridge fund.	A	70,043	38,017	252,562g

.....Change in the amendment process (see note above).....

1900	To increase debt limit of municipalities borrowing	R	108,681	30,160	314,181t

	permanent school funds.				
1902	To increase state road and bridge tax, and to eliminate restrictions on expenditure of fund.	R	114,969	23,948	276,071t
1902	To increase debt limit of municipalities borrowing permanent school funds.	R	116,766	20,777	276,071t
1902	To simplify the taxing provisions of the constitution.	R	124,584	21,251	276,071t
1904	To increase debt limit of municipalities borrowing school and university funds.	A	190,718	39,334	322,692t
1904	To abolish the requirement of a grand jury.	A	164,055	52,152	322,692t
1906	To simplify the taxing provisions by a "wide open" section.	A	156,051	46,982	284,366t
1906	To increase state road and bridge tax, and to reduce restrictions on expenditure of funds.	A	141,870	49,232	284,366t
1906	To permit farmers to sell their produce without licenses.	A	190,897	34,094	284,366t
1908	To limit the exemption of church property from taxation to that "used for religious purposes."	R	134,141	65,776	355,263t
1908	To permit unlimited state taxation for road and bridge purposes.	R	154,226	56,557	355,263t
1908	To authorize state hail insurance.	R	137,710	61,084	355,263t
1908	To authorize legislature to establish educational qualifications for county superintendents of schools.	R	169,785	42,114	355,263t
1910	To permit state to assume half the cost of any road or bridge project.	A	159,746	44,387	310,165t
1910	To repeal the requirement as to publication of treasurer's report annually in a St. Paul newspaper and also in the biennial session laws.	R	123,787	51,650	310,165t
1910	To authorize state hail insurance.	R	108,926	63,205	310,165t
1910	To authorize reapportionment of legislative representation at any time.	R	95,181	61,520	310,165t
1910	To authorize and require an annual state tax for reforestation work.	R	100,168	63,962	310,165t
1910	To authorize tax exemptions to encourage reforestation.	R	87,943	73,697	310,165t
1912	To authorize a one mill state tax for roads and bridges and to permit state to assume entire cost of any project.	A	195,724	51,135	349,678t
1912	To authorize state hail insurance.	R	145,173	60,439	349,678t
1912	To authorize investment of school and university funds in first mortgages on improved farms.	R	168,440	39,483	349,678t
1912	To amend the municipal home rule clause to authorize commission government and for other purposes.	R	157,086	41,971	349,678t
1912	To authorize legislature to establish educational qualifications for county superintendents of schools.	R	167,983	36,584	349,678t
1912	To limit size of state senate and number of senators from any county.	R	122,457	77,187	349,678t
1914	To establish initiative and referendum.	R	168,004	41,577	356,906t
1914	To increase number of justices of supreme court, and to authorize the court to appoint its clerk.	R	127,352	68,886	356,906t
1914	To authorize a revolving fund for improving state school and swamp lands.	R	162,951	47,906	356,906t
1914	To repeal the requirement as to publication of treasurer's report annually in a St. Paul newspaper and also in the biennial session laws.	R	131,213	58,827	356,906t
1914	To authorize investment of school and university funds in first mortgages on improved farms.	R	159,531	38,145	356,906t
1914	To extend terms of probate judges to four years.	R	128,601	64,214	356,906t
1914	To limit size of state senate and number of	R	98,144	84,436	356,906t

	senators from any county.				
1914	To authorize state bounties for reforestation.	R	108,352	63,782	356,906t
1914	To authorize certain public lands to be set aside as state forests.	A	178,954	44,033	356,906t
1914	To authorize the recall by the voters of "every public official in Minnesota, elective or appointive."	R	139,801	44,961	356,906t
1914	To authorize special dog taxes and use of proceeds to compensate owners of animals injured by dogs.	R	136,671	59,786	356,906t
1916	To authorized a revolving fund for improving state school and swamp lands.	A	240,975	58,100	416,215t
1916	To authorize investment of school and university funds in first mortgages on improved farms.	A	211,529	56,147	416,215t
1916	To authorize the state to mine ore under public waters.	R	183,597	64,255	416,215t
1916	To increase number of justices of supreme court, and to authorize the court to appoint its own clerk.	R	130,363	108,002	416,215t
1916	To authorize the governor to cut down items in appropriation bills.	R	136,700	83,324	416,215t
1916	To authorize condemnation of private lands for construction of private drainage ditches.	R	132,741	97,432	416,215t
1916	To establish initiative and referendum.	R	187,711	51,544	416,215t
1916	To extend terms of probate judges to four years.	R	186,847	72,361	416,215t
1918	To prohibit the manufacture and the sale of liquor.	R	189,614	173,665	380,604t
1920	To provide a state trunk highway system.	A	526,936	199,603	797,945t
1920	To extend terms of probate judges to four years.	A	446,959	171,414	797,945t
1920	To authorize state income tax and to change provisions on tax-exempt property.	R	331,105	217,558	797,945t
1922	To establish a state rural credit system to aid agricultural development.	A	534,310	73,917	714,630t
1922	To tax mining of iron and other ores.	A	474,697	91,011	714,630t
1924	To place revenue generated by excise taxes on motor fuels in trunk highway fund.	A	520,769	197,455	869,151t
1924	To change requirements for publication of proposed amendments to city and village charters.	R	246,414	200,391	869,151t
1924	To establish state-owned and operated public terminal grain elevators.	R	253,732	257,492	869,151t
1924	To authorize enactment of laws promoting forestation and reforestation of public and private lands, including irrepealable provisions for forest land tax and a yield tax on timber products.	R	428,407	143,977	869,151t
1924	To authorize state expenditure to prevent forest fires, including compulsory taxation, clearing and improvement of public and private wild lands.	A	460,965	143,518	869,151t
1926	To fix the number of justices on the state supreme court.	R	331,964	148,784	722,781t
1926	To authorize enactment of laws promoting forestation and reforestation of public and private lands.	A	383,003	127,592	722,781t
1926	To authorize the legislature to limit the liability of stockholders in corporations.	R	323,322	140,422	722,781t
1928	To place revenue generated by motor fuel tax 2/3 in trunk highway fund and 1/3 in bridge fund.	A	542,796	346,109	1,070,274t
1928	To authorize the legislature to limit the liability of stockholders in corporations.	R	506,065	223,725	1,070,274t
1930	To provide two elective associate supreme court justices to replace appointed court commissioners.	A	428,013	130,833	828,401t
1930	To authorize the legislature to exchange state public lands for federal lands.	R	378,716	174,231	828,401t
1930	To authorize the legislature to limit the liability	A	486,818	135,345	828,401t

	of stockholders in corporations.				
1932	To authorize taxation of income, franchises and privileges of railroad companies; to authorize legislation to make taxation of national banking associations conform to federal law.	R	420,052	409,924	1,054,203t
1932	To authorize taxation of motor vehicles of companies paying taxes under the gross earnings taxation system.	A	537,292	227,634	1,054,203t
1932	To authorize the legislature to exchange state public lands for federal lands.	R	433,913	258,257	1,054,203t
1932	To authorize the taxation of lands acquired through rural credit system.	R	468,101	261,856	1,054,203t
1934	To authorize legislature to add new routes to trunk highway system.	R	509,074	279,877	1,064,332t
1934	To authorize taxation of lands acquired through rural credit system.	R	496,017	215,623	1,064,332t
1934	To exempt all household goods and farm machinery and equipment from taxation.	A	630,125	181,126	1,064,332t
1934	To authorize the legislature to exchange state public lands for federal lands.	R	468,617	216,760	1,064,332t
1934	To define “academies, colleges, universities and seminaries of learning” to mean, for tax purposes, property actually used in instruction and housing of students.	R	472,374	247,166	1,064,332t
1936	To authorize the legislature to exchange state public lands for federal lands.	R	448,917	397,106	1,164,268t
1936	To exempt personal property from state tax.	R	355,588	543,847	1,164,268t
1938	To authorize the legislature to exchange state public lands for federal lands.	A	609,046	259,007	1,144,926t
1938	To change requirements for publication of proposed amendments to city and village charters.	R	488,370	260,152	1,144,926t
1940	To change requirements for publication of proposed amendments to city and village charters.	R	635,815	287,286	1,301,573t
1942	To change requirements for investment or loan of permanent school and permanent university funds.	A	415,012	190,563	818,182t
1942	To simplify and reduce the expense of publishing amendments to city and village charters.	A	459,868	144,842	818,182t
1944	To authorize state construction and operation of airports; to authorize taxes on aircraft fuel and aircraft sales.	A	737,091	264,149	1,195,397t
1948	To provide for 50-50 apportionment of excise tax on petroleum products.	R	534,538	539,224	1,257,804t
1948	To authorize submission of two or more amendments without requiring voters to vote separately on each.	R	319,667	621,523	1,257,804t
1948	To authorize 2/3 of the legislature to call for a constitutional convention without submitting the question to the voters.	R	294,842	641,013	1,257,804t
1948	To authorize the state to pay a veterans’ bonus.	A	664,703	420,518	1,257,804t
1950	To authorize diversion of 1% of the proceeds of the occupation mining tax to the veterans’ compensation fund.	A	594,092	290,870	1,067,967t
1950	To authorize forestry management funds by diverting certain proceeds (25%) from the public land trust fund.	R	367,013	465,239	1,067,967t
1950	To provide for a 50-44-6 apportionment of the excise tax on petroleum products.	R	420,530	456,346	1,067,967t
1952	To authorize a change in the investment and loan requirements governing permanent school and university funds.	R	604,384	500,490	1,460,326t
1952	To provide for a 60% popular majority of voters	R	656,618	424,492	1,460,326t

	voting on the question before a new state constitution can be considered legally ratified by the electorate.				
1952	To clarify meaning of who shall be entitled to vote.	R	716,670	371,508	1,460,326t
1952	To permit legislature to extend probate jurisdiction by a 2/3 vote.	R	646,608	443,005	1,460,326t
1952	To provide for a 65-10-25 apportionment of excise tax on motor vehicles.	R	580,316	704,336	1,460,326t
1954	To permit legislature to extend probate jurisdiction by a 2/3 vote.	A	610,138	303,838	1,168,101t
1954	To authorize the legislature to limit the liability of stockholders of state banks.	A	624,611	290,039	1,168,101t
1954	To provide for a 60% popular vote before a new state constitution can be ratified and to remove constitutional bar precluding members of the legislature from serving in a constitutional convention.	A	638,818	266,434	1,168,101t
1954	To 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	1,168,101t
1956	To permit the legislature to reorganize the judicial power of the state.	A	939,957	307,178	1,443,856t
1956	To authorize the consolidation of present trunk highway articles and sections, to increase state aid and supervision of public highways; to permit tax of motor vehicles and fuel; to apportion funds for highway purposes 62-29-9 to state and local highways.	A	1,060,063	230,707	1,443,856t
1956	To authorize the legislature to divert 50% of the occupation mining tax proceeds earmarked for education from permanent trust funds to current educational needs.	A	1,084,627	209,311	1,443,856t
1958	To authorize the legislature to revise and consolidate provisions relating to local government, home rule and special laws.	A	712,552	309,848	1,178,173t
1958	To provide for four-year terms for state constitutional officers to take effect for terms beginning in 1963.	A	641,887	382,505	1,178,173t
1958	To permit members of the legislature to hold certain elective and nonelective state offices.	R	576,300	430,112	1,178,731t
1960	To extend the legislative session; to restrict the time during which bills can be introduced; to set qualifications for legislators running for other elective offices.	R	763,434	501,429	1,577,509t
1960	To allow an extra legislative session for reapportionment if reapportionment is not completed during the regular session.	R	600,797	661,009	1,577,509t
1960	To provide for succession to the office of governor: to provide for continuity of government in emergencies caused by enemy attack.	A	974,486	305,245	1,577,509t
1960	To prescribe the place where a person moving to a new precinct within 30 days before an election may vote; eliminating obsolete provisions on the voting rights of persons of Indian blood.	A	993,186	302,217	1,577,509t
1962	To consolidate the swamp land fund and the permanent school fund; to set distribution requirements and investment restrictions.	A	828,880	288,490	1,267,502t
1962	To allow state to contract long- and short-term debts for public improvements upon approval	A	728,255	385,723	1,267,502t

	of 3/5 of both houses of the legislature.				
1962	To remove restrictions on length of legislative sessions.	A	706,761	393,538	1,267,502t
1964	To prevent amendment or repeal of taconite tax policies for 25 years; to authorize legislature to impose limitations for not more than 25 years on taxation of copper and nickel mining.	A	1,272,590	204,133	1,586,173t
1964	To remove obsolete language from constitution.	A	1,089,798	254,216	1,586,173t
1966	To allow legislators to seek election to other offices and to provide resignation procedure for legislators.	R	575,967	471,427	1,312,288t
1968	To allow legislators to assume another elective or appointive office upon resignation from the legislature.	A	1,012,235	359,088	1,601,515t
1968	To allow legislature to present bills to governor within three days after legislature adjourns; allowing governor 14 days to sign or veto such bills.	A	1,044,418	316,916	1,601,515t
1970	To authorize the legislature to define or limit categories of tax-exempt property.	A	969,774	287,858	1,388,525t
1970	To reduce voting age requirement from 21 to 19 years; to provide an age requirement of 21 years to hold public office.	A	700,449	582,890	1,388,525t
1972	To allow flexible legislative sessions.	A	968,088	603,385	1,773,838t
1972	To reorganize the state judicial system; to provide for appointment of clerks of district court; to authorize discipline and removal of judges.	A	1,012,916	531,831	1,773,838t
1972	To provide for the joint election of the governor and lieutenant governor; to remove the lieutenant governor as the presiding officer of the senate.	A	1,064,580	503,342	1,773,838t
1972	To authorize bonus payment for Vietnam veterans.	A	1,131,921	477,473	1,773,838t
1974	To revise organization and language of constitution.	A	815,064	311,781	1,296,209t
1974	To ease vote requirement for amending constitution.	R	638,775	474,519	1,296,209t
1974	To allow legislature to determine railroad taxes.	A	741,353	372,158	1,296,209t
1976	To permit proceeds from increases in motor fuel taxes to be placed in the general fund; to remove restrictions on interest rate for and amount of highway bonds.	R	552,543	1,134,847	1,978,590t
1980	To establish a bipartisan reapportionment commission.	R	1,036,581	754,935	2,079,411t
1980	To 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	2,079,411t
1980	To remove restrictions on the interest rate for and the amount of highway bonds.	R	964,212	823,192	2,079,411t
1980	To establish initiative and referendum.	R	970,407	854,164	2,079,411t
1980	To remove requirement of senate approval for notaries public.	R	944,883	850,251	2,079,411t
1982	To allow the creation of a court of appeals.	A	1,304,127	385,738	1,834,737t
1982	To remove restrictions on the interest rate for and the amount of trunk highway bonds.	A	1,103,221	563,865	1,834,737t
1982	To permit the legislature to authorize on-track pari-mutuel betting on horse racing.	A	1,108,255	624,721	1,834,737t
1982	To provide state bonding authority for the improvement and rehabilitation of railroad facilities.	A	1,201,321	492,736	1,834,737t
1984	To allow the exchange of state-owned lands for other lands owned by state or local	A	1,176,809	611,200	2,114,842t

	governments.				
1984	To remove restrictions on the investment of fthe permanent school und and to allow the limits on the investment of the fund and the apportionment of the returns on the investment to school districts to be set by law.	A	1,139,390	631,378	2,114,842t
1988	To establish a Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund for environmental, natural resources, and wildlife purposes.	A	1,645,090	375,752	2,125,119t
1988	To allow the use of juries of fewer 12 members in civil and nonfelony cases.	A	1,205,730	806,766	2,125,119t
1988	To permit the legislature to authorize a lottery operated by the state.	A	1,214,032	843,307	2,125,119t
1990	To 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	1,843,104t
1994	To permit off-track wagering on horse racing in a manner prescribed by law.	R	841,277	847,802	1,794,618t
1996	To authorize a bonus for Persian Gulf War veterans.	A	1,334,409	740,039	2,211,161t
1996	To provide for recall of elected state officials.	A	1,833,523	248,778	2,211,161t
1998	To extend use of lottery for environmental trust fund.	A	1,556,895	460,747	2,105,343t
1998	To preserve hunting and fishing heritage.	A	1,570,720	462,749	2,105,343t
1998	To abolish the office of state treasurer.	A	1,087,789	855,853	2,105,343t
2006	To dedicate the motor vehicle sales tax to highways and public transportation.	A	1,270,042	947,776	2,217,818t

Sources: Anderson, William, A History of the Constitution of Minnesota, Minneapolis, University of Minnesota, 1921; Mitau, G. Theodore, “Constitutional Change by Amendment: Recommendations of the Minnesota Constitutional Commission in Ten Years’ Perspective,” Minnesota Law Review, Volume 44, 1959–60, pp. 461–83, Minnesota legislative manuals, the archives of the Minnesota Historical Society, and state canvassing board reports.