

# History of crime victims' rights ballot measures

Since 1982, 58 ballot measures concerning crime victims' rights have been on statewide ballots in 39 states. These measures include those related to the legal rights and protections of crime victims. They address a right to restitution, notification, participation in legal proceedings, and victim support services, among other rights guaranteed to victims of crimes.

Of the 58 ballot measures, 57 were constitutional amendments. One, in [Oregon](#), was an [initiated state statute](#). It is excluded from this analysis, which focuses on measures that proposed amending state constitutions to include crime victims' rights.

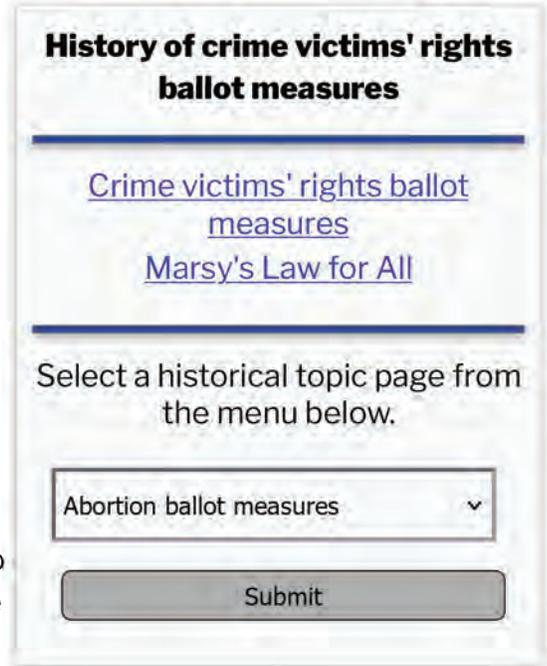
Of the 57 constitutional amendments, 55 would have established or expanded the rights of crime victims, and two would have limited the rights of crime victims.<sup>[1]</sup> Voters have never rejected a constitutional amendment that would establish or expand crime victims' rights. The only rejected amendment was South Carolina [Amendment 1](#), which would have permitted the state legislature to exempt victims of certain crimes from the protections included in the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights.

Of the 57 constitutional amendments on the ballot since 1982, 33 added a [crime victims' bill of rights](#), 15 added [Marsy's Law](#), three added a single right for victims of crimes, and six amendments altered or would have altered preexisting Marsy's Law amendments or crime victims' bill of rights amendments.

In 2026, Tennessee voters will decide a [constitutional amendment](#) which would add Marsy's Law to the state constitution. If approved, Tennessee will become the sixteenth state with Marsy's Law in the state constitution.

On this page, you will find:

- an [overview](#) of the two main types of constitutional amendments that grant crime victims rights;
- a [list of states](#) that have voted on crime victims' rights ballot measures;
- a [timeline](#) of crime victims' rights ballot measures;
- a [list of measures overturned](#) by state courts after voter approval;
- a [list of measures by year](#); and
- a [list of measures by topic](#).



## HIGHLIGHTS

- From 1982 to 2025, there were 57 constitutional amendments on statewide ballots addressing crime victims' rights. Voters approved 56 (98.2%) and rejected one (1.8%) of these 57 ballot measures.
- The state with the highest number of crime victims' rights ballot measures was Oregon (five).
- From 1982 to 2025, 48 of 57 (84.2%) of crime victims' rights ballot measures were [legislatively referred constitutional amendments](#). A state constitutional commission referred one (1.8%) to the ballot and citizens [initiated](#) eight (14.0%).
- In three states, Kentucky, Montana, and Pennsylvania, courts have overturned amendments that would have expanded constitutional rights to victims of crimes.
- In 1996, there were nine ballot measures addressing crime victims' rights— the most on record.

## Types of crime victims' rights ballot measures

### Crime victims' bill of rights

Thirty-three (33) states have passed a ballot measure to add a crime victims' bill of rights to their state constitutions. Not every state refers to such amendments as a *Crime Victims' Bill of Rights*. Most states had no official title for these amendments. In other states, these amendments have been referred to as *Rights of the People*, *Rights of Victims of Crime*, and *Rights of Crime Victims*.

Each state's crime victims' bill of rights amendment contains different guarantees of rights. Some commonly included rights are the right to:

- be present at criminal proceedings;
- make a victim impact statement at sentencing hearings;
- restitution from their attacker or abuser;
- timely disposition of the case;
- be informed of the release of the accused due to parole or completion of their sentence; and
- be treated with fairness, dignity, and privacy during criminal proceedings.

### Marsy's Law

Amendments referred to as *Marsy's Law* are a type of crime victims' bill of rights amendment, but they closely model an example constitutional amendment released by the organization [Marsy's Law for All](#).

The effort to institute Marsy's Law across the U.S. has been primarily backed by [Henry Nicholas](#), co-founder of Broadcom Corporation. Henry's sister, Marsalee ("Marsy") Nicholas, was murdered by her ex-boyfriend in 1983. A week later, Henry and his mother encountered Marsy's ex-boyfriend at a grocery store after he was released on bail; Henry and his mother were unaware of his release. In 2009, Henry founded [Marsy's Law for All](#) LLC, the national organization advocating for Marsy's Law. The organization describes its mission in the following way: "Marsy's Law for All seeks to amend state constitutions that don't offer protections to crime victims and, eventually, the U.S. Constitution to give victims of crime rights equal to those already afforded to the accused and

convicted."<sup>[2]</sup>

The model constitutional amendment released by [Marsy's Law for All](#) includes the following key provisions:<sup>[3]</sup>

- The right to be notified about and present at proceedings;
- The right to be heard at proceedings involving release, plea, sentencing, disposition, or parole of the accused;
- The right to have the safety of the victim and victim's family considered when making bail or release decisions;
- The right to be protected from the accused;
- The right to be notified about release or escape of the accused;
- The right to refuse an interview or deposition at the request of the accused;
- The right to receive restitution from the individual who committed the criminal offense.

The model amendment states that the Marsy's Law definition of *victim* includes both the person directly harmed by a crime and "any spouse, parent, grandparent, child, sibling, grandchild, or guardian, and any person with a relationship to the victim that is substantially similar to a listed relationship."<sup>[3]</sup>

California was the first state to add Marsy's Law to their state constitution when voters approved [Proposition 9](#) in 2008. Proposition 9 passed with 53.8% of the vote and became a model for several subsequent Marsy's Law ballot measures across the United States.

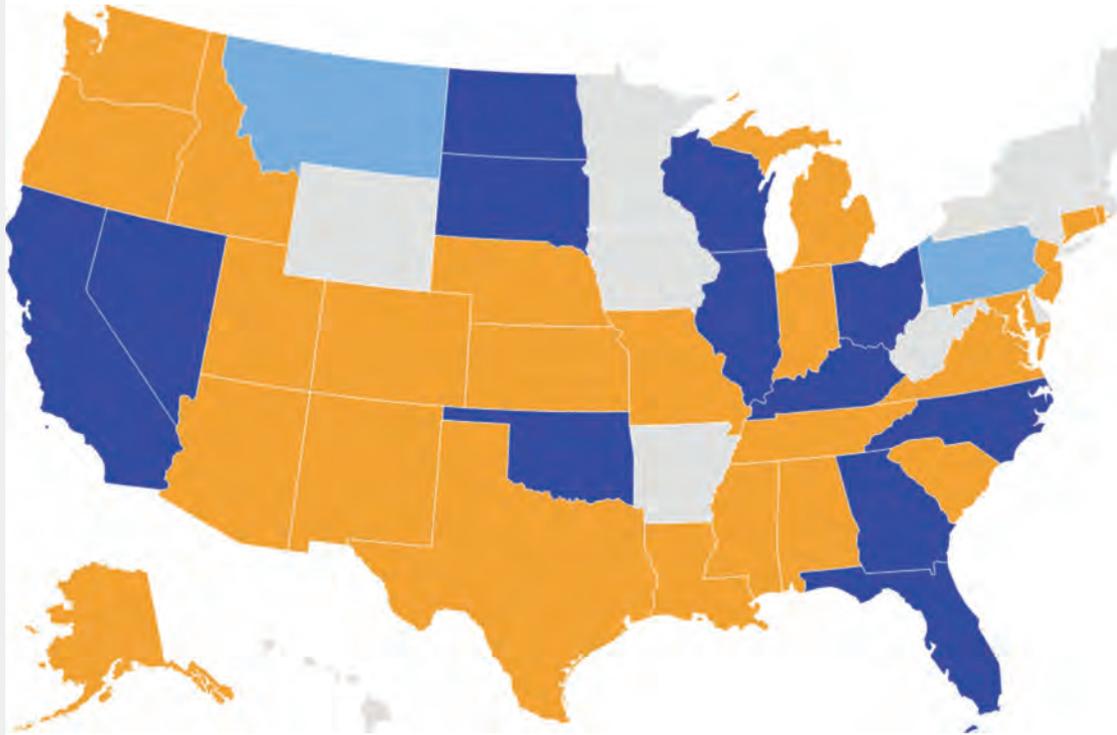
## **Types of crime victims' rights amendments by state**

The map below shows the status of crime victims' rights amendments in state constitutions as of 2026. Of the 15 states that have passed Marsy's Law, eight had previously passed a crime victims' bill of rights.<sup>[4]</sup>

# Status of Crime Victims Rights Amendments in the United States



Crime Victims' Rights Amendment Marsy's Law Marsy's Law Overturned None



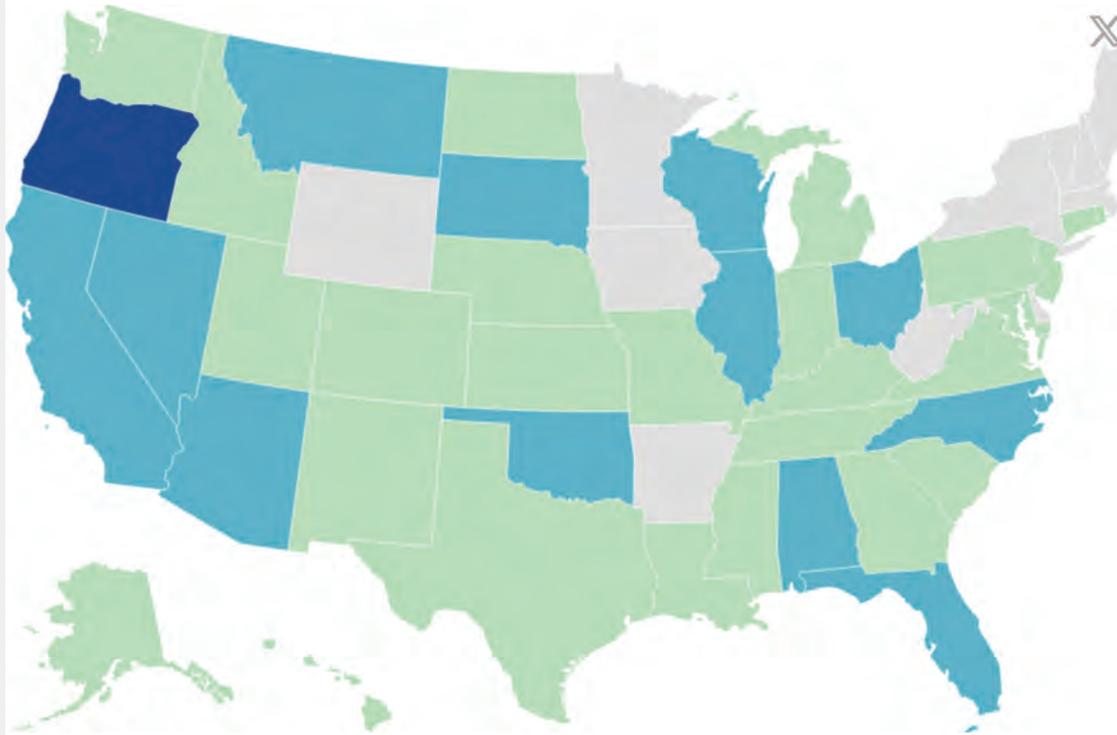
Map: Ballotpedia

## States that have voted on crime victims' rights ballot measures

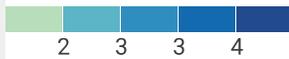
Fifty-seven (57) constitutional amendments concerning crime victims' rights have been on the ballot in 39 states. All but one amendment has been approved. The state with the highest number of constitutional amendments concerning crime victims' rights is Oregon (five).

Forty-eight (48) constitutional amendments were placed on the ballot by state legislatures. Eight of the constitutional amendments were [initiated](#) by citizens. One amendment (in [Florida](#)) was referred to the ballot by a constitutional commission.

## States that have voted on crime victims' rights amendments, 1980-2025



Number of measures



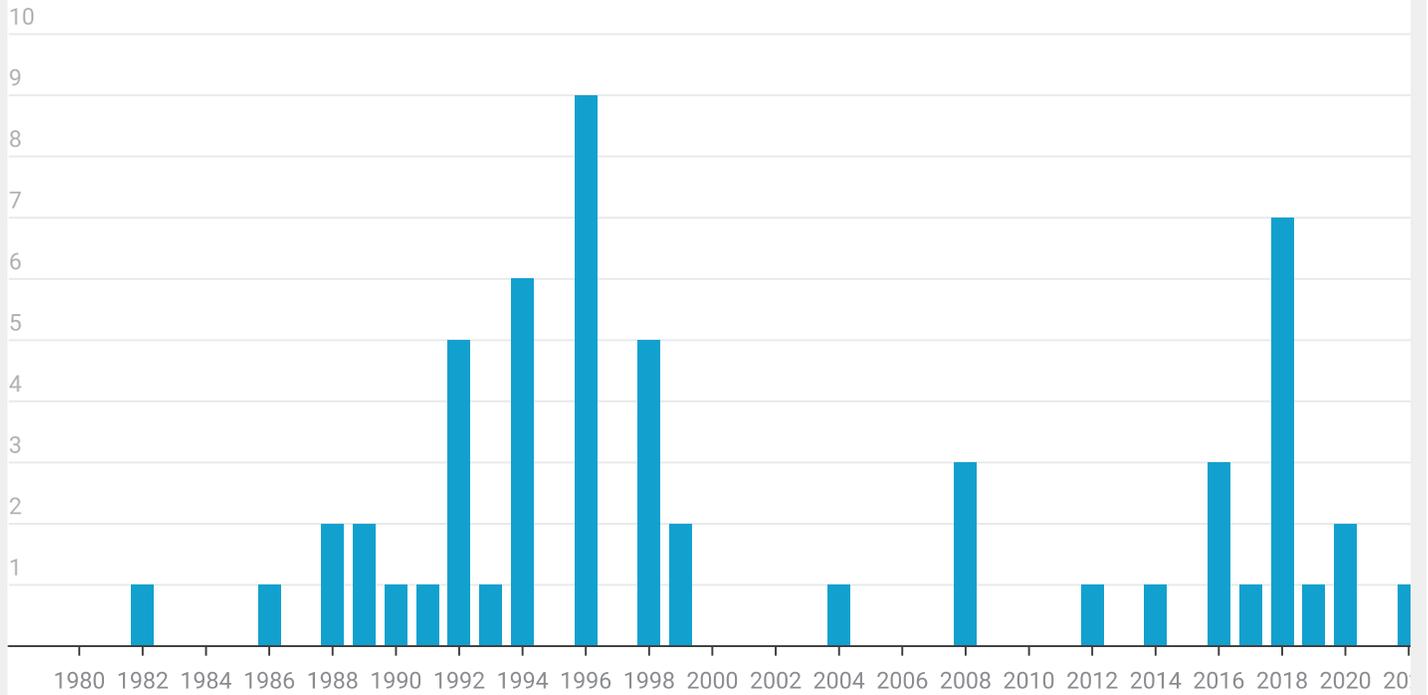
Source: Ballotpedia • [Embed](#)

## Timeline of crime victims' rights ballot measures

Constitutional amendments on statewide ballots that granted crime victims' rights can be separated into two main time periods. During the first period, which spanned from 1982-1999, 35 constitutional amendments were approved, and one was defeated. Of the 35 constitutional amendments approved, 33 implemented a crime victims' bill of rights.

The second period is defined by constitutional amendments that implement Marsy's Law. Since 2004, 21 constitutional amendments have been approved. Fifteen (15) of the 21 amendments (71.4%) added Marsy's Law to the state constitution.

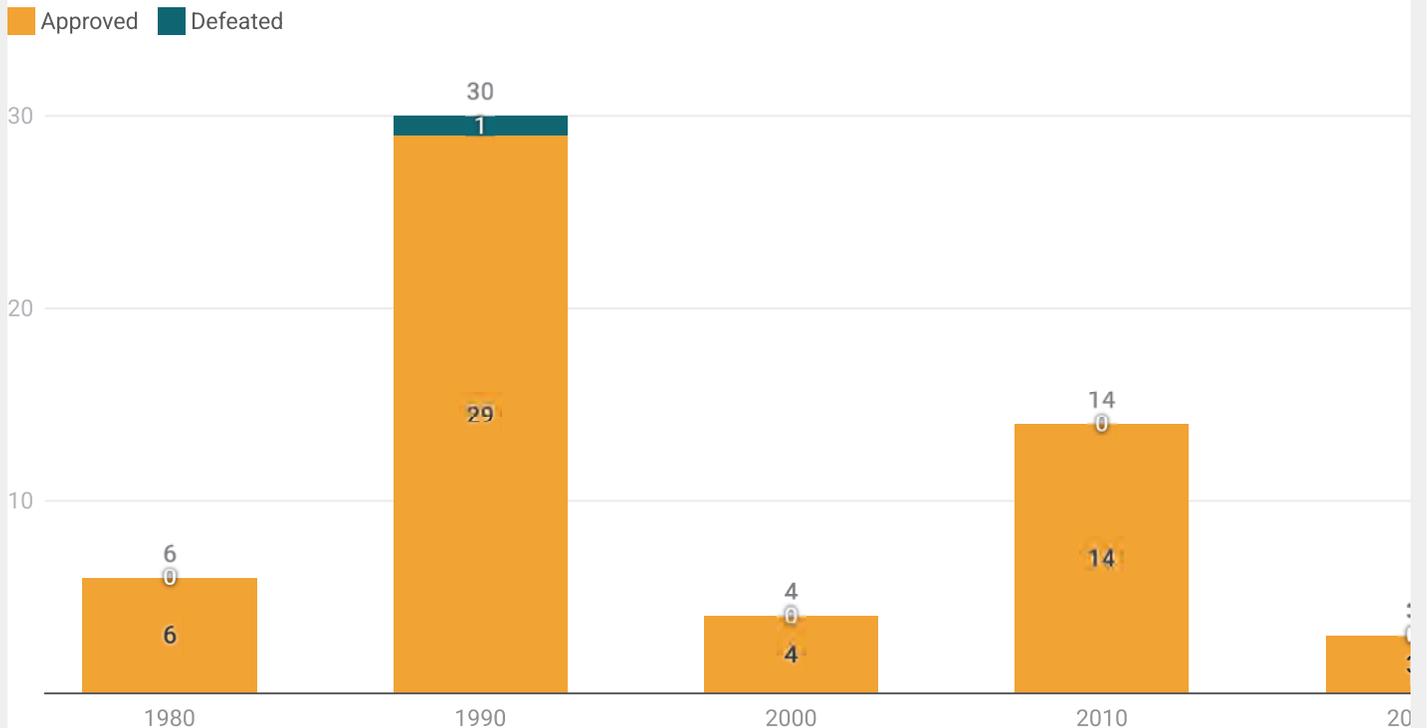
# Number of crime victims' rights state ballot measures each year, 1980-2025



## Crime victims' rights by decade

### Number of crime victims' rights state ballot measures by decade

The total number of measures in each decade is listed above the column.



## 1980s

Six constitutional amendments were approved in the 1980s that granted certain rights to crime victims. The first was [California Proposition 8](#) in 1982. The measure was a [combined](#) constitutional amendment and state statute, meaning it made changes to the state constitution and state law.

The amendment granted crime victims the right to appear at hearings, the right to give a victim impact statement at sentencing hearings, and required that crime victims be ordered restitution for their losses. Proposition 8 differed from most other amendments concerning crime victims' rights because it also granted the courts discretion about when to grant bail and allowed an increase in prison sentences, among other changes to the criminal justice system.

In 1986, 68.2% of Rhode Island voters approved [Amendment 8](#), a constitutional amendment to grant rights to crime victims. The amendment, like California Proposition 8, addressed other topics. Amendment 8 included free speech, due process, and equal protection clauses to the state constitution, along with other changes.

In 1988, [Florida](#) and [Michigan](#) approved constitutional amendments. Both were approved by more than 80% of voters. In 1989, [Texas](#) and [Washington](#) approved constitutional amendments.

## 1990s

More amendments granting rights to crime victims were on the ballot in the 1990s than in any other decade. Twenty-nine (29) amendments were approved, and one was defeated.

The 29 measures that were approved established or expanded the rights of crime victims. South Carolina [Amendment 1](#) was defeated; 49.0% of voters approved the amendment, and 51.0% of voters opposed it. The measure would have permitted the state legislature to exempt victims of certain crimes from the protections included in the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights.<sup>[5]</sup>

## 2000s

In the 2000s, four constitutional amendments were approved in three states. In [Hawaii](#), voters approved an amendment that guaranteed a crime victim the right to confidential communications between themselves and their doctors. In [Oregon](#), voters approved two amendments to the constitution designed to enable crime victims to enforce their constitutional rights in court. The measures did not add any additional crime victims' rights to the constitution.

The fourth amendment, [California Proposition 9](#), was the first constitutional amendment in the nation to be patterned after Marsy's Law. The measure was sponsored by [Marsy's Law for All](#).

## 2010s

In the 2010s, 14 constitutional amendments were approved in 13 states that granted crime victims rights. Twelve (12) of the amendments were patterned after Marsy's Law.

Three of those amendments were later [overturned](#) by state courts.

The other two amendments were in South Dakota and Arizona. The [2018](#) amendment in South Dakota altered the Marsy's Law amendment originally approved in [2016](#). It made many of the rights guaranteed available to victims if they opt in, rather than requiring law enforcement and criminal justice officials to provide the rights unless victims opt out. It allowed law enforcement officials to share certain information with the public in order to assist in solving crimes or apprehending criminals. The amendment also contained provisions preventing any lawsuits from being filed against state or local government officials based on the Marsy's Law rights.

The amendment in [Arizona](#) protected felony crime victims from having to pay damages if they caused harm to their attacker during the commission of a felony.

## 2020s

In 2020, two constitutional amendments were approved in two states, [Wisconsin](#) and [Kentucky](#). Both amendments were patterned after Marsy's Law.

In 2022, Alabama voters approved an [amendment](#) that was more limited in scope than the Marsy's law amendments. It required the governor to provide notice to the attorney general and the victim's family before granting a commutation or reprieve of a death sentence.

## States where crime victims' rights amendments were overturned after voter approval

### Pennsylvania

See also: [Pennsylvania Marsy's Law Crime Victims Rights Amendment \(2019\)](#) and [Single-subject rule for ballot initiatives](#)

Pennsylvanians voted on Marsy's Law at the election on [November 5, 2019](#). The ballot measure received 74% of the vote. However, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court enjoined Acting Secretary of State Kathy Boockvar from certifying election results, pending the results of a complaint in the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court.<sup>[6]</sup>

On October 10, 2019, the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania filed a complaint with the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court that challenged the ballot measure. The complaint stated that the ballot measure proposed more than one amendment to the state constitution and therefore violated the state's [single-subject rule](#).<sup>[7]</sup> Acting Secretary of State [Kathy Boockvar](#) (D), the defendant in the case, argued that the ballot measure contained related subparts that pertain to a single subject, which made the proposal constitutional.

The Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court, in a 3-2 decision, ruled that the 2019 [amendment](#) violated the state's separate-vote requirement for constitutional amendments.<sup>[8]</sup> On December 21, 2021, the [Pennsylvania Supreme Court](#) upheld the commonwealth court's decision, overturning the measure.<sup>[9]</sup>

### Kentucky

See also: [Kentucky Marsy's Law Crime Victims Rights Amendment \(2018\)](#) and [Publication requirements for proposed state constitutional amendments](#)

A majority of Kentucky voters (62.8%) approved a [Marsy's Law amendment](#) in 2018. The results of the ballot question were never certified.

The Kentucky Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers filed litigation against the state on August 13, 2018, stating that the ballot question failed to "inform the electorate of the substance of the amendment."<sup>[10]</sup> A circuit court judge blocked votes on the amendment from being certified after the court found that the ballot language did not fairly and fully inform the electorate.<sup>[11]</sup>

On June 12, 2019, the Kentucky Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, affirmed the lower court's ruling that the ballot language did not provide enough information, rendering the Marsy's Law constitutional amendment invalid. [Chief Justice John D. Minton, Jr.](#) said, "Our constitution is too important and valuable to be amended without the full amendment ever being put to the public."<sup>[12]</sup> The ruling also stated, "We hold that Section 256 of the Kentucky Constitution requires the General Assembly to submit the full text of a proposed constitutional amendment to the electorate for a vote. Likewise, Section 257 requires the secretary of state to publish the full text of the proposed amendment at least ninety days before the vote. Because the form of the amendment that was published and submitted to the electorate for a vote in this case was not the full text, and was instead a question, the proposed amendment is void."<sup>[13]</sup>

In 2020, voters in Kentucky approved Marsy's Law for a [second time](#), with the new ballot measure including the complete text of the amendment.

## Montana

See also: [Montana Marsy's Law Crime Victims Rights Initiative, CI-116 \(2016\)](#) and [Single-subject rule for ballot initiatives](#)

In 2016, a majority of Montana voters (66.1%) approved [Initiative 116](#), which would have added Marsy's Law in the state. Initiative 116 was never added to the state constitution due to a court ruling.

On June 20, 2017, a group of plaintiffs, including the Montana Association of Counties, filed a lawsuit against the state of Montana with the [Montana Supreme Court](#). The plaintiffs said that Initiative 116 violated the state's [single-subject rule](#) and [separate vote requirement](#) and was, therefore, unconstitutional. The lawsuit stated that the new section added to the constitution by the initiative (Article II, Section 36), while one contiguous text, effectively amends multiple, separate pre-existing sections of the constitution.<sup>[14]</sup>

On November 1, 2017, the Montana Supreme Court struck down the initiative as unconstitutional. In a 5-2 decision, the court said that the initiative violated the separate-vote requirement of the Montana Constitution.<sup>[15]</sup>

## List of crime victims' rights ballot measures

### List of state ballot measures by year

The following table provides a list of crime victims' rights ballot measures from 1982 to 2025:

**List of crime victims' rights ballot measures**

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
Alabama	2022	<a href="#">Amendment 3, Notice to Victim's Family Required for Commutation or Reprieve of Death Sentences Amendment</a>	81.9%	18.1%
Kentucky	2020	<a href="#">Constitutional Amendment 1, Marsy's Law Crime Victims Rights Amendment</a>	63.4%	36.6%
Wisconsin	2020	<a href="#">Marsy's Law Crime Victims</a>	74.9%	25.1%

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
		<a href="#">Rights Amendment</a>		
Pennsylvania	2019	<a href="#">Marsy's Law Crime Victims Rights Amendment</a>	74.0%	26.0%
Oklahoma	2018	<a href="#">State Question 794, Marsy's Law Crime Victim Rights Amendment</a>	78.0%	22.0%
Nevada	2018	<a href="#">Question 1, Marsy's Law Crime Victims Rights Amendment</a>	61.2%	38.8%
North Carolina	2018	<a href="#">Marsy's Law Crime Victims Rights</a>	62.1%	37.9%

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
Kentucky	2018	<a href="#">Amendment</a> <a href="#">Marsy's Law</a> <a href="#">Crime Victims</a> <a href="#">Rights</a> <a href="#">Amendment</a>	62.8%	37.2%
Georgia	2018	<a href="#">Amendment</a> <a href="#">4, Marsy's</a> <a href="#">Law Crime</a> <a href="#">Victim Rights</a> <a href="#">Amendment</a>	80.9%	19.1%
Florida	2018	<a href="#">Amendment</a> <a href="#">6, Marsy's</a> <a href="#">Law Crime</a> <a href="#">Victims</a> <a href="#">Rights,</a> <a href="#">Judicial</a> <a href="#">Retirement</a> <a href="#">Age, and</a> <a href="#">Judicial</a> <a href="#">Interpretation</a> <a href="#">of Laws and</a>	61.6%	38.4%

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
		<a href="#">Rules Amendment</a>		
South Dakota	2018	<a href="#">Constitutional Amendment Y, Changes to Marsy's Law Crime Victim Rights Amendment</a>	79.5%	20.5%
Ohio	2017	<a href="#">Issue 1, Marsy's Law Crime Victim Rights Initiative</a>	82.6%	17.4%
South Dakota	2016	<a href="#">Constitutional Amendment S, Marsy's Law Crime Victim Rights Amendment</a>	59.6%	40.4%

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
North Dakota	2016	<a href="#">Initiated Constitutional Measure 3, Marsy's Law Crime Victim Rights Amendment</a>	62.0%	38.0%
Montana	2016	<a href="#">CI-116, Marsy's Law Crime Victims Rights Initiative</a>	66.1%	33.9%
Illinois	2014	<a href="#">Marsy's Law Crime Victims' Bill of Rights Amendment</a>	78.4%	21.6%
Arizona	2012	<a href="#">Proposition 114, Crime Victim Protection</a>	79.9%	20.1%

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
		<a href="#"><u>Amendment</u></a>		
California	2008	<a href="#"><u>Proposition 9, Marsy's Law Crime Victims Rights Amendment</u></a>	53.8%	46.2%
Oregon	2008	<a href="#"><u>Measure 52, Enforcement of Crime Victims Rights from Offenders Amendment</u></a>	74.9%	25.1%
Oregon	2008	<a href="#"><u>Measure 51, Crime Victim Rights Enforcement Amendment</u></a>	74.9%	25.1%
Hawaii	2004	<a href="#"><u>Question 3, Patient</u></a>	60.9%	39.1%

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
		<a href="#"><u>Confidentiality Amendment</u></a>		
Oregon	1999	<a href="#"><u>Measure 71, Crime Victims' Rights and Pretrial Release Amendment</u></a>	58.0%	42.0%
Oregon	1999	<a href="#"><u>Measure 69, Victims' Rights in Criminal Prosecutions Amendment</u></a>	58.2%	41.8%
Tennessee	1998	<a href="#"><u>Amendment 2, Victims' Bill of Rights</u></a>	88.8%	11.2%
South Carolina	1998	<a href="#"><u>Amendment 1</u></a>	49.0%	51.0%

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
Montana	1998	<a href="#">C-33, Criminal Law Basis</a>	71.4%	28.6%
Mississippi	1998	<a href="#">Amendment 2, Crime Victim Rights Amendment</a>	93.3%	6.7%
Louisiana	1998	<a href="#">Amendment 4, Crime Victims' Rights</a>	69.2%	30.8%
Virginia	1996	<a href="#">Question 2, Rights of Victims Amendment</a>	84.2%	15.8%
South Carolina	1996	<a href="#">Referendum 1A, the Victims' Rights Act</a>	88.8%	11.2%
Oregon	1996	<a href="#">Measure 40,</a>	58.9%	41.1%

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
		<a href="#">Crime Victims' Rights Initiative</a>		
Oklahoma	1996	<a href="#">State Question 674, Victims Rights Amendment</a>	91.2%	8.8%
Nevada	1996	<a href="#">Question 2, Crime Victim Rights Amendment</a>	74.3%	25.7%
North Carolina	1996	<a href="#">Victims' Rights Amendment</a>	77.8%	22.2%
Indiana	1996	<a href="#">Public Question 1, Victims' Rights Act</a>	88.9%	11.1%

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
Connecticut	1996	<a href="#">Question 1, Victims' Rights Amendment</a>	78.5%	21.5%
Nebraska	1996	<a href="#">Amendment 3, Crime Victim Rights Measure</a>	78.0%	22.0%
Utah	1994	<a href="#">Proposition 1, Crime Victim's Rights Amendment</a>	69.3%	30.7%
Ohio	1994	<a href="#">Crime Victims' Rights Amendment</a>	77.6%	22.4%
Maryland	1994	<a href="#">Question 1, Victim Rights Amendment</a>	92.4%	7.6%

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
Idaho	1994	<a href="#">HJR 16, Rights of Crime Victims Amendment</a>	79.3%	20.7%
Alabama	1994	<a href="#">Victims' Rights Amendment</a>	80.4%	19.6%
Alaska	1994	<a href="#">Measure 2, Crime Victims' Rights Amendment</a>	86.6%	13.4%
Wisconsin	1993	<a href="#">Question 6, Rights of Victims of Crime Amendment</a>	84.1%	15.9%

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
Kansas	1992	<a href="#">Crime Victims Rights Amendment</a>	84.4%	15.6%
Missouri	1992	<a href="#">Amendment 4, Crime Victim Rights Measure</a>	85.5%	14.5%
Illinois	1992	<a href="#">Amendment 1, Crime Victim Rights Amendment</a>	80.6%	19.4%
Colorado	1992	<a href="#">Referendum A, Victims' Rights Amendment</a>	80.2%	19.8%
New Mexico	1992	<a href="#">Proposed Amendment 2, Rights of Crime Victims</a>	68.6%	31.4%

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
New Jersey	1991	<a href="#">Public Question No. 1</a>	84.6%	15.4%
Arizona	1990	<a href="#">Proposition 104, Crime Victims' Rights Amendment</a>	57.1%	42.9%
Washington	1989	<a href="#">SJR 8200, Crime Victims' Rights Amendment</a>	78.1%	21.9%
Texas	1989	<a href="#">Proposition 13, Rights of Crime Victims Amendment</a>	72.1%	27.9%
Michigan	1988	<a href="#">Proposal B, Crime Victims'</a>	80.4%	19.6%

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
		<a href="#">Rights Amendment</a>		
Florida	1988	<a href="#">Amendment 2, Crime Victims Rights Amendment</a>	90.2%	9.8%
Rhode Island	1986	<a href="#">Rights of the People, Constitutional Amendment 8</a>	68.2%	31.8%
California	1982	<a href="#">Proposition 8, Changes to Criminal Proceedings Initiative</a>	56.4%	43.6%

## List of state ballot measures by topic

### Amendments that added a single right to the constitution

The following ballot measures added a single right for victims of crimes to the state constitution. In Alabama and Arizona, the measures added a right to existing victims' rights amendments in the state constitutions. In Hawaii, the ballot measure added a standalone right to the state

constitution.

**List of crime victims' rights ballot measures that added or to the constitution**

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
Alabama	2022	<a href="#"><u>Amendment 3, Notice to Victim's Family Required for Commutation or Reprieve of Death Sentences Amendment</u></a>	81.9%	18.1%
Arizona	2012	<a href="#"><u>Proposition 114, Crime Victim Protection Amendment</u></a>	79.9%	20.1%
Hawaii	2004	<a href="#"><u>Question 3, Patient Confidentiality</u></a>	60.9%	39.1%

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
<a href="#"><u>Amendment</u></a>				

### Crime victims' bill of rights amendments

The following amendments added a crime victims' bill of rights to the state constitution. While many of the amendments contained similar provisions, unlike Marsy's Law amendments, these ballot measures were not based on a model amendment and vary in content.

#### List of crime victims' bill of rights ballot measure

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
Tennessee	1998	<a href="#"><u>Amendment 2, Victims' Bill of Rights</u></a>	88.8%	11.2%
Montana	1998	<a href="#"><u>C-33, Criminal Law Basis</u></a>	71.4%	28.6%
Mississippi	1998	<a href="#"><u>Amendment 2, Crime Victim Rights Amendment</u></a>	93.3%	6.7%
Louisiana	1998	<a href="#"><u>Amendment 4, Crime</u></a>	69.2%	30.8%

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
		<a href="#"><u>Victims' Rights</u></a>		
Virginia	1996	<a href="#"><u>Question 2, Rights of Victims Amendment</u></a>	84.2%	15.8%
South Carolina	1996	<a href="#"><u>Referendum 1A, the Victims' Rights Act</u></a>	88.8%	11.2%
Oregon	1996	<a href="#"><u>Measure 40, Crime Victims' Rights Initiative</u></a>	58.9%	41.1%
Oklahoma	1996	<a href="#"><u>State Question 674, Victims Rights Amendment</u></a>	91.2%	8.8%

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
Nevada	1996	<a href="#">Question 2, Crime Victim Rights Amendment</a>	74.3%	25.7%
North Carolina	1996	<a href="#">Victims' Rights Amendment</a>	77.8%	22.2%
Indiana	1996	<a href="#">Public Question 1, Victims' Rights Act</a>	88.9%	11.1%
Connecticut	1996	<a href="#">Question 1, Victims' Rights Amendment</a>	78.5%	21.5%
Nebraska	1996	<a href="#">Amendment 3, Crime Victim Rights Measure</a>	78.0%	22.0%

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
Utah	1994	<a href="#"><u>Proposition 1, Crime Victim's Rights Amendment</u></a>	69.3%	30.7%
Ohio	1994	<a href="#"><u>Crime Victims' Rights Amendment</u></a>	77.6%	22.4%
Maryland	1994	<a href="#"><u>Question 1, Victim Rights Amendment</u></a>	92.4%	7.6%
Idaho	1994	<a href="#"><u>HJR 16, Rights of Crime Victims Amendment</u></a>	79.3%	20.7%

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
Alabama	1994	<a href="#">Victims' Rights Amendment</a>	80.4%	19.6%
Alaska	1994	<a href="#">Measure 2, Crime Victims' Rights Amendment</a>	86.6%	13.4%
Wisconsin	1993	<a href="#">Question 6, Rights of Victims of Crime Amendment</a>	84.1%	15.9%
Kansas	1992	<a href="#">Crime Victims Rights Amendment</a>	84.4%	15.6%
Missouri	1992	<a href="#">Amendment 4, Crime Victim Rights</a>	85.5%	14.5%

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
		<a href="#"><u>Measure</u></a>		
Illinois	1992	<a href="#"><u>Amendment 1, Crime Victim Rights Amendment</u></a>	80.6%	19.4%
Colorado	1992	<a href="#"><u>Referendum A, Victims' Rights Amendment</u></a>	80.2%	19.8%
New Mexico	1992	<a href="#"><u>Proposed Amendment 2, Rights of Crime Victims</u></a>	68.6%	31.4%
New Jersey	1991	<a href="#"><u>Public Question No. 1</u></a>	84.6%	15.4%
Arizona	1990	<a href="#"><u>Proposition 104, Crime</u></a>	57.1%	42.9%

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
Washington	1989	<a href="#">SJR 8200, Crime Victims' Rights Amendment</a>	78.1%	21.9%
Texas	1989	<a href="#">Proposition 13, Rights of Crime Victims Amendment</a>	72.1%	27.9%
Michigan	1988	<a href="#">Proposal B, Crime Victims' Rights Amendment</a>	80.4%	19.6%
Florida	1988	<a href="#">Amendment 2, Crime</a>	90.2%	9.8%

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
Rhode Island	1986	<a href="#">Victims Rights Amendment</a> <a href="#">Rights of the People, Constitutional Amendment 8</a>	68.2%	31.8%
California	1982	<a href="#">Proposition 8, Changes to Criminal Proceedings Initiative</a>	56.4%	43.6%

### Marsy's Law amendments

Below is a list of the 15 constitutional amendments that were sponsored by [Marsy's Law for All](#) and were patterned after the amendment suggested by the organization. Of the fifteen states that have passed Marsy's Law, eight had previously passed a crime victims' bill of rights.

### List of Marsy's Law ballot measures

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
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STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
Kentucky	2020	<a href="#">Constitutional Amendment 1, Marsy's Law Crime Victims Rights Amendment</a>	63.4%	36.6
Wisconsin	2020	<a href="#">Marsy's Law Crime Victims Rights Amendment</a>	74.9%	25.1
Pennsylvania	2019	<a href="#">Marsy's Law Crime Victims Rights Amendment</a>	74.0%	26.0
Oklahoma	2018	<a href="#">State Question 794, Marsy's Law Crime Victim</a>	78.0%	22.0

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
		<a href="#">Rights Amendment</a>		
Nevada	2018	<a href="#">Question 1, Marsy's Law Crime Victims Rights Amendment</a>	61.2%	38.8
North Carolina	2018	<a href="#">Marsy's Law Crime Victims Rights Amendment</a>	62.1%	37.9
Kentucky	2018	<a href="#">Marsy's Law Crime Victims Rights Amendment</a>	62.8%	37.2
Georgia	2018	<a href="#">Amendment 4, Marsy's</a>	80.9%	19.1

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
Florida	2018	<a href="#">Law Crime Victim Rights Amendment</a> <a href="#">Amendment 6, Marsy's Law Crime Victims Rights, Judicial Retirement Age, and Judicial Interpretation of Laws and Rules Amendment</a>	61.6%	38.4
South Dakota	2018	<a href="#">Constitutional Amendment Y, Changes to Marsy's Law Crime Victim Rights</a>	79.5%	20.5

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
		<a href="#"><u>Amendment</u></a>		
Ohio	2017	<a href="#"><u>Issue 1, Marsy's Law Crime Victim Rights Initiative</u></a>	82.6%	17.4
South Dakota	2016	<a href="#"><u>Constitutional Amendment S, Marsy's Law Crime Victim Rights Amendment</u></a>	59.6%	40.4
North Dakota	2016	<a href="#"><u>Initiated Constitutional Measure 3, Marsy's Law Crime Victim Rights Amendment</u></a>	62.0%	38.0
Montana	2016	<a href="#"><u>CI-116,</u></a>	66.1%	33.9

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
		<a href="#">Marsy's Law Crime Victims Rights Initiative</a>		
Illinois	2014	<a href="#">Marsy's Law Crime Victims' Bill of Rights Amendment</a>	78.4%	21.6
California	2008	<a href="#">Proposition 9, Marsy's Law Crime Victims Rights Amendment</a>	53.8%	46.2

### Measures to alter preexisting amendments

Six ballot measures to alter preexisting Marsy's Law amendments or crime victims' bill of rights amendments have been on the ballot in three states.

Four of the measures expanded crime victims' rights by adding more rights to existing amendments or implementing policies making victims' rights more readily accessible to victims. Two of the measures would have limited crime victims' rights. South Dakota [Constitutional Amendment Y](#) required victims to opt in to receive access to their rights; South Carolina

[Amendment 1](#) would have permitted the state legislature to exempt some victims from accessing the rights in the state's Crime Victims' Bill of Rights. South Carolina Amendment 1 is the only crime victims' rights ballot measure to be defeated by voters.

The chart below lists these ballot measures and summarizes how they changed or would have changed victims' rights in each state.

 **List of crime victims' rights ballot mea**

STATE	YEAR	MEASURE	EFFECT
South Dakota	2018	<a href="#">Constitutional Amendment Y, Changes to Marsy's Law Crime Victim Rights Amendment</a>	Make some of the rights guaranteed available to victims if they opt in instead of requiring law enforcement and criminal justice officials to provide the rights unless victims opt out
Oregon	2008	<a href="#">Measure 52, Enforcement of Crime</a>	Authorize the state legislature to

STATE



YEAR



MEASURE



EFFECT



pass  
implementing  
legislation to  
grant victims  
reasonable  
protection and  
require courts  
to consider  
victim and  
public safety  
when  
determining  
pretrial release

[Victims  
Rights from  
Offenders  
Amendment](#)

Oregon

2008

[Measure 51,  
Crime Victim  
Rights  
Enforcement  
Amendment](#)

Authorize the  
state  
legislature to  
pass  
implementing  
legislation to  
allow victims  
to be present  
at proceedings,

STATE



YEAR



MEASURE



EFFECT



refuse  
defendants  
discovery  
requests,  
receive  
restitution,  
obtain  
transcripts,  
and consult  
about plea  
negotiations

Oregon

1999

[Measure 71,](#)  
[Crime](#)  
[Victims'](#)  
[Rights and](#)  
[Pretrial](#)  
[Release](#)  
[Amendment](#)

Grant victims  
the right to  
reasonable  
protection  
during the  
justice process  
and require  
courts to  
consider victim  
and public  
safety when

STATE



YEAR



MEASURE



EFFECT



Oregon

1999

[Measure 69,  
Victims'  
Rights in  
Criminal  
Prosecutions  
Amendment](#)

determining pretrial release, among other changes

Grant victims additional rights, including the right to be notified of and be present at court proceedings, to be heard at release hearings and sentencing, to restitution, and to be consulted at certain plea negotiations

STATE



YEAR



MEASURE



EFFECT



South  
Carolina

1998

[Amendment  
1](#)

Allow the legislature to exempt from the protection of the Victims' Bill of Rights certain felonies or misdemeanors, and specify which crime victims are protected by the Victims' Bill of Rights

## See also

- [2026 ballot measures](#)
- [Crime victims' rights ballot measures](#)
- [Marsy's Law for All](#)

## Footnotes

1. South Dakota [Constitutional Amendment Y](#) required victims to opt in to receive access to their rights and South Carolina [Amendment 1](#) would have permitted the state legislature to exempt some victims from accessing the rights in the state's Crime Victims' Bill of Rights.
2. [Marsy's Law for All, "About Marsy's Law," accessed February 1, 2018](#) 
3. [Marsy's Law for All, "A Model Constitutional Amendment To Afford Victims Equal Rights," accessed February 1, 2018](#) 
4. Hawaii is not included on the map; Hawaii does not have Marsy's Law or a crime victims' bill

Only the first few references on this page are shown above. [Click to show more.](#)

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