2008 No. 3 November (11/5/2008 updated 12/10)

BALLOTWATCH

Notable

- 153 ballot propositions in 36 states in November, 59 percent approved
- 59 initiatives, 41 percent approved so far
- Most propositions: Colorado 14, California and Oregon 12
- 14 of 15 bond issues heading for approval.
- Headline issues: gay marriage ban approved in Arizona, California, and Florida; abortion ban rejected in South Dakota and Colorado, civil rights / affirmative action ban approved in Nebraska but rejected in Colorado.



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ELECTION 2008: MIXED RESULTS

Voters faced 153 statewide ballot propositions on November 4, picking and choosing according to local conditions, giving no indication of a trend in the national mood to the left or right.

On social issues, conservatives scored victories with same-sex marriage bans in Arizona, California, and Florida, while progressives turned back abortion bans in South Dakota and Colorado as well as a California measure that would have required parental notification before a minor received an abortion.



The nation's highest profile measure, California's Proposition 8 that banned same-sex marriage, was approved with 52 percent in favor. The campaigns for and against Proposition 8 together raised in excess of \$60 million, a record for a social issue. The outcome is surprising because a large number of pre-election polls showed the proposition failing. An Associate Press exit poll found especially strong support for the proposition among African American voters, with 70 percent in favor, suggested that a surge in Obama supporters might have contributed to the measure's success.

With the economy souring, voters might have been expected to hold the line on government spending. But 14 of 15 bond measures appear to be heading toward passage, authorizing more than \$13 billion in all.

Seventeen tax measures were on ballots nationwide. Montana voters authorized higher property taxes to support state universities, while Florida voters rejected a proposal for higher property taxes for community colleges, and Florida, Louisiana, and Oklahoma approved various property tax exemptions. A sales tax increase was approved in Minnesota but turned down in Colorado and Nevada. Colorado voters also said no to a measure that would have increased severance taxes on oil and gas.

Animal rights activists recorded two notable victories. In California, a measure requiring a minimum living space for farm animals passed with 63 percent in favor. The proposition comes on the heels of similar successful measures in Florida and Arizona. In Massachusetts, voters agreed to prohibit commercial dog racing.

Overall, 90 measures were approved, and 63 were rejected. The overall passage rate of 59 percent is below the 67 percent rate in 2004 and 2006. Twenty-four of 59 initiatives, the citizen-sponsored measures that are the most potent form of direct democracy, were approved. The 41 percent passage rate for initiatives is equal to historical average.

This IRI report provides a state-by-state list all of ballot measures and election results. It will be periodically updated as additional election returns become available. For additional nonpartisan information on ballot propositions, see www.iandrinstitute.org, Ballotpedia (www.ballotpedia.org), and the National Conference of State Legislatures (www.ncsl.org).

Alabama

All six measures are constitutional amendments placed on the ballot by the legislature. Amendments 2-6 apply only to a local government.

- Amendment 1. Reestablishes education trust rainy day fund. APPROVED 57-43
- Amendment 2. Shelby County judges. APPROVED 60-40
- Amendment 3. Madison City school tax. APPROVED 50.3-49.7
- Amendment 4. Blount County annexations. APPROVED 57-43
- Amendment 5. Russell County court costs. FAILED 45-55
- Amendment 6. Tuskegee City utility board. APPROVED 58-42

Alaska

Bond Proposition. \$315 million bonds for roads and ports (legislative) APPROVED 63-37

Arizona

Prop 102 and the unnumbered proposition were placed on the ballot by the legislature. Prop 300 was placed on the ballot by a state commission. The other propositions are initiatives. Props 100-105 are constitutional amendments. Props 200-300 are statutes.

- Prop 100. Property sales taxes. Prohibits new taxes on property sales. APPROVED 77-23
- Prop 101. Prohibition of universal health care programs. FAILED 49.7-50.3
- Prop 102. Same-sex marriage. Bans same-sex marriage. APPROVED 56-44
- Prop 105. Proposition approval. Requires approval by majority of registered voters for new tax, fee, spending propositions. FAILED 34-66
- Prop 200. Payday loans. Allows payday loan industry to exist after 2010. FAILED 40-60
- Prop 201. New homes. Requires sellers to provide 10-year warranty. FAILED 22-78
- Prop 202. Illegal immigrants. Reduces employer responsibility for identifying illegal immigrants. FAILED 41-59
- Prop 300. Legislator salaries. Raises to at least \$30,000. FAILED 36-64

Arkansas

Act 1 is an initiative statute, Amendments 1 and 2 are legislative constitutional amendments, Amendment 3 is an initiative, and Referred Question 1 is a legislative statute.

- Act 1. Adoption. Prohibits persons cohabiting outside marriage from adopting. APPROVED 57-43
- Amendment 1. Constitutional language. Remove language referring to voting by "idiot or insane" persons. APPROVED 73-27
- Amendment 2. Legislative sessions. Allows sessions in even-numbered years. APPROVED 69-31
- Amendment 3. Lottery. Authorizes state lottery, money going to education. APPROVED 63-37
- Referred Question 1. \$300 million bonds for water projects. APPROVED 65-35

Arizona and Ohio voters rejected proposals to allow payday lending.

California

Propositions 1A and 12 are legislative measures; the others are initiatives. Proposition 4 is a constitutional amendment. Propositions 9 and 11 are both constitutional amendments and statutes. The rest are statutes.

- Prop 1A. \$9.95 billion bonds for high speed rail systems. APPROVED 52-48
- Prop 2. Animal living space. Requires minimum space for farm animals. APPROVED 63-37
- Prop 3. \$980 million bonds for children's hospitals. APPROVED 55-45
- *Prop 4. Abortion parental notification.* Requires parental notification and waiting period before minor can have abortion. FAILED 48-52
- Prop 5. Reduced penalties for nonviolent rug crimes and marijuana possession. FAILED 40-60
- Prop 6. Gang crimes. Increases penalties, eliminates bail for illegal immigrants. FAILED 31-69
- *Prop 7. Clean energy.* Utilities to generate 20% of power from renewable energy by 2010. FAILED 35-65
- Prop 8. Marriage. Bans same-sex marriage. APPROVED 52-48
- Prop 9. Victim rights. Victims given input during trial process. APPROVED 53-47
- Prop 10. \$5 billion bonds for alternative fuel vehicles and renewable energy. FAILED 40-60
- Prop 11. Redistricting. Establishes nonpartisan redistricting for state legislators. PASSING 51-49
- Prop 12. \$900 million bonds for home and farm aid for veterans. APPROVED 63-37

Colorado

All 14 measures are constitutional amendments. "Amendment #" indicates an initiative and "Referendum #" indicates a legislative proposal.

- Amendment 46. Civil rights/affirmative action. Prohibits government from discriminating or giving preferential treatment on the basis of race, sex, ethnicity, national origin. FAILED 49-51
- Amendment 47. Right to work. Prohibits requiring union membership /dues. FAILED 44-56
- Amendment 48. Abortion. Defines a "person" as a human being from the moment of fertilization. FAILED 27-73
- Amendment 49. Union dues. Prohibits deduction of dues from public worker paychecks. FAILED 39-61
- Amendment 50. Casinos. Allows three communities to extend hours. APPROVED 59-41
- Amendment 51. Sales tax. Increases tax 0.2% for people with developmental disabilities. FAILED 38-62
- Amendment 52. Highways. Dedicates portion of severance tax to highway projects. FAILED 36-64
- Amendment 54. Campaign contributions. Prohibits unions and persons doing business with state from contributing to campaigns. APPROVED 51-49
- Amendment 58. Severance tax. Increase oil and gas taxes. FAILED 42-58
- Amendment 59. Budget windfalls. Dedicates to education not tax rebates. FAILED 45-55
- Referendum L.. Legislator age. Sets minimum age at 21 instead of 25 years. FAILED 46-54
- *Referendum M.* Removes obsolete constitutional provisions regarding land value increases. APPROVED 62-38
- Referendum N. Removes obsolete constitutional provisions regarding alcohol. APPROVED 69-31
- Referendum O. Initiative petitions. Lowers signature requirement for statutes from 5% to 4%, increases requirement for constitutional amendments from 5% to 6%, requires geographic dispersion across congressional districts, limits amendment by legislature. FAILED 48-52

In the midst of a deep and prolonged budget crisis, California voters approved almost \$12 billion in new bonds.

Connecticut

- Question 1. Constitutional convention. State constitution requires asking voters every 20 years if they want to call a constitutional convention. FAILED 40-60
- Question 2. Voting. Legislative amendment lowering voting age to 17 in primaries. AP-PROVED 64-36

Florida

Amendment 1 is a legislative measure, Amendment 2 is an initiative, and Amendments 3-9 were placed on the ballot by the Florida Taxation and Budget Reform Commission. The Commission also placed Amendments 5, 7, and 9 on the ballot but a court removed them in September.

- Amendment 1. Alien land ownership. Prohibits restriction on land ownership by legal aliens. FAILED 48-52
- Amendment 2. Marriage. Bans same-sex marriage (requires 60%). APPROVED 62-38
- Amendment 3. Property taxes. Exemption for wind resistance and renewable energy devices. APPROVED 61-39
- Amendment 4. Property taxes. Exemption for conservation property. APPROVED 69-31
- Amendment 6. Assessment of waterfront property based on use. APPROVED 71-29
- Amendment 8. Local sales tax. Allows for community colleges with voter approval. FAILED 44-56

With yes votes in Arizona, California, and Florida, voters have now approved 32 of 33 measures banning gay marriage.

Georgia

All three constitutional amendments were placed on the ballot by the legislature.

- Amendment 1. Forest land. Lower taxes for landowners conserving forest land. APPROVED 68-32
- Amendment 2. Tax allocation bonds. Authorizes local governments to issue. APPROVED 52-48
- Amendment 3. Infrastructure development districts. Allows creation with local approval. FAILED 48-52

Hawaii

- Constitutional Amendment. Governor/Lt. Governor. Lowers minimum age from 30 to 25 years. FAILED 18-82
- Constitutional Question. State constitution requires asking voters every 20 years if they want to call a constitutional convention. FAILED 35-65

Illinois

 NA. Constitutional convention. State constitution requires asking voters every 20 years if they want to call a constitutional convention. Requires 60% approval. FAILED 33-67

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 Amendment Question. Voting rights. Replaces constitutional language referring to "idiotand insane" persons. APPROVED 82-18

Louisiana

All seven measures are constitutional amendments place on the ballot by the legislature.

- Amendment 1. Term limits. Establishes three-term limits on public boards and commissions. APPROVED 69-31
- Amendment 2. Extraordinary sessions. Requires proclamation in advance of such sessions. AP-PROVED 60-40
- Amendment 3. Temporary legislators. Provides temporary replacements for legislators ordered to active military duty. APPROVED 62-38
- Amendment 4. Severance taxes. Increases share to local governments. FAILED 45-55
- Amendment 5. Expropriated property. Allows transfer of special assessment to replacement property. FAILED 49.9-50.1
- Amendment 6. Blighted property. Removes restrictions on disposition. FAILED 49-51
- Amendment 7. Public retirement fund. Permits equity investments. FAILED 44-56

Maine

- Question 1. Health care. Referendum asking voters to repeal new taxes and fees to expand state's "universal" health care program. APPROVED 64-36 (repealed)
- *Question 2. Casino.* Initiative statute that allows Evergreen Mountain Enterprises to operate a casino on Oxford County. FAILED 46-54
- Question 3. \$3.4 millions bonds for clean water (legislative proposal). PASSED 50.3-49.7

Maryland

Both constitutional amendments were placed on the ballot by the legislature.

- Question 1. Absentee voting. Allows absentee voting up to two weeks before elections. AP-PROVED 72-28
- Question 2. Video lottery. Allows 15,000 terminals in five locations. APPROVED 59-41

Massachusetts

All three measures are statutory initiatives.

- Question 1. Repeals state income tax. FAILED 30-70
- Question 2. Bans commercial dog racing. APPROVED 65-35
- Question 3. Decriminalizes marijuana. APPROVED 56-44

Michigan

Both measures are initiatives.

- Proposal 1. Medical marijuana. Statute allowing medical use. APPROVED 63-37
- Proposal 2. Stem cell research. Amendment removing restrictions. APPROVED 53-47

Minnesota

• Constitutional Amendment. Sales tax for environment. Legislative measure that adds 3/8 of one percent to sales tax for clean water, natural areas, parks, and the arts. Approval requires majority of all ballots cast. APPROVED 56-44

Gambling measures were approved in Arkansas, Colorado, and Maryland, and rejected in Maine and Ohio.

Missouri

The two constitutional amendments were placed on the ballot by the legislature. The three propositions are statutory initiatives.

- Amendment 1. English only. Requires English at all governmental meetings. 86-14
- Amendment 4. Storm water funding. Eases rules for state grant and loan program for storm water control. APPROVED 58-42
- *Prop A. Gambling.* Increases taxes, dedicates revenue to education, eliminates minimum buy-in of \$500. APPROVED 56-44
- Prop B. Home care workers. Allows unionization, helps recruit and train. APPROVED 75-25
- Prop C. Energy. Requires utilities to generate 20% of electricity from renewable energy. AP-PROVED 66-34

Montana

C-44 is a legislative constitutional amendment, LR-118 is a legislative statute, and I-155 is an initiative statute.

- C-44. Investment of public funds. Allows 25% to be invested in equities. FAILED 26-74
- LR-118. Tax for universities. Extends 6-mill tax for state university system. APPROVED 57-43
- *I-155. Healthy Montana Kids.* Dedicates state funds to health care for uninsured children. APPROVED 70-30

Nebraska

- Measure 424. Civil rights/affirmative action. Initiative amendment that prohibits government from discriminating or giving preferential treatment on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin. APPROVED 58-42
- Amendment 1. Local government revenue. Legislative amendment that removes requirement for cities to use only general revenue for economic development programs. FAILED 46-54

Nevada

Question 2 is an initiative; the others are legislative measures. Question 4 is a statute; the others are constitutional amendments.

- Question 1. Voting rights. Removes 6-month residence requirement to vote. FAILED 47-53
- Question 2. Eminent domain. Restricts use of eminent domain for private purposes. Approval at two consecutive elections required this is the second vote. APPROVED 61-39
- Question 3. Sales taxes. Requires legislative findings before allowed. APPROVED 60-40
- Question 4. Sales taxes. Allows legislature to change without voter approval. FAILED 27-73

New Jersey

Both measures are constitutional amendments placed on the ballot by the legislature.

- Public Question 1. Bond approval. Requires voter approval for state agencies to issue bonds. APPROVED 57-43
- Public Question 2. Municipal judges. Legislative constitutional amendment that allows local governments to appoint judges to municipal courts. FAILED 45-55

Missouri voters approved an amendment requiring English at all government meetings.

New Mexico

All nine measures were placed on the ballot by the legislature.

- Amendment 1. Salaries of county officials. Allows midterm increases. APPROVED 53-47
- Amendment 2. School boards. Increases size, allows elections by mail. APPROVED 74-26
- Amendment 3. Cabinet Secretaries. Requires confirmation at start of Governor's term. AP-PROVED 72-28
- Amendment 4. School elections. Allows at same time as nonpartisan elections. APPROVED 74-26
- Amendment 5. Lt. Governor. Authorizes Governor to fill vacancy. APPROVED 69-31
- Bond Question A. \$14.725 million bonds for senior facilities. APPROVED 59-41
- Bond Question B. \$11.019 million bonds for libraries. APPROVED 52-48
- Bond Question C. \$57.925 million bonds for health facilities. APPROVED 65-35
- Bond Question D. \$140.133 million bonds for higher education. APPROVED 58-42

New York

• Proposal 1. Civil service exams. Legislative amendment that makes technical change in condition allowing veterans advantage in exam. APPROVED 77-23

North Dakota

The first measure was placed on the ballot by the legislature. The other three are initiatives.

- Constitutional Measure 1. Oil Tax Trust Fund. Requires excess revenue to be deposited in fund. FAILED 36-64
- Statutory Measure 2. Income tax. Lowers personal and corporate income tax rates. FAILED 30-70
- Statutory Measure 3. Tobacco settlement revenue dedicated to anti-smoking. APPROVED 54-46
- Statutory Measure 4. Admin appointment. Allows governor to appoint director of workplace safety. APPROVED 67-33

Ohio

Issues 1-3 were placed on the ballot by the legislature, Issue 5 is a referendum, and Issue 6 is an initiative. All are constitutional amendments. All but Issue 5 are constitutional amendments.

- Issue 1. Initiative petitions. Constitutional amendment requiring earlier submission of petitions. APPROVED 69-31
- Issue 2. \$400 million bonds for conservation and open spaces. APPROVED 69-31
- Issue 3. Property on Great Lakes. Constitutional amendment that protects property rights of land owners subject to the Great Lakes Water Compact. APPROVED 72-28
- Issue 5. Payday lending. Support/approve or repeal limits on payday lending. APPROVED 64-36
- Issue 6. Casino. Allows a privately owned casino in southwest Ohio. FAILED 37-63

Oklahoma

All four measures are constitutional amendments placed on the ballot by the legislature.

- State Question 735. Property tax exemption for disabled veterans. APPROVED 85-15
- State Question 741. Property taxes. Prohibits retroactive filing for exemptions. APPROVED 68-32
- State Question 742. Establishes a right to hunt and fish. APPROVED 80-20
- State Question 743. Wine. Allows small wine makers to sell directly to package retailers and restaurants. APPROVED 79-21

New Mexico voters approved all nine propositions — five constitutional amendments and four bond issues.

Oregon

Measures 54-56 are legislative constitutional amendments, 57 is a legislative statute, 58-61, 63-65 are initiative statutes, and 62 is an initiative constitutional amendment.

- Measure 54. Voting. Allows under-21 to vote in school board elections. APPROVED 73-27
- Measure 55. Redistricting. Allows legislators to finish terms in original district. APPROVED 77-23
- Measure 56. Property tax elections. Removes requirement that 50% of registered voters cast ballots for measure to pass in local property tax elections. APPROVED 57-43
- Measure 57. Mandatory sentences for drug dealers, identity thieves, and others. Less costly version of Measure 61. APPROVED 61-39
- Measure 58. Bilingual education. Limits to two years. FAILED 44-56
- Measure 59. Federal income tax deductible on state returns. FAILED 36-64
- Measure 60. Teacher salaries. To be based on classroom performance. FAILED 39-61
- Measure 61 Mandatory sentences for drug dealers, identity thieves, others. FAILED 49-51
- Measure 62. Dedicates 15% of lottery revenue to crime prevention. FAILED 39-61
- Measure 63. Building permits. Not required for projects less than \$35,000. FAILED 46-54
- Measure 64. Prohibits public employee unions from using union dues for political purposes. FAILED 49-51
- Measure 65. Primary elections. Establishes "top two" primary system. FAILED 34-66

Pennsylvania

 Bond Referendum. Legislative measure authorizing \$400 million bonds for water projects and sewers. APPROVED 62-38

Rhode Island

Both measures are statutes placed on the ballot by the legislature.

- Question 1. \$87.215 million bonds for transportation projects. APPROVED 77-23
- Question 2. \$2.5 million bonds for land conservation. APPROVED 68-32

South Carolina

These three constitutional amendments were placed on the ballot by the legislature.

- Amendment 1. Age of consent. Deletes provision that unmarried women younger than 14 may consent to have sex. APPROVED 52-48
- Amendment 2. Pension fund investments. Allows state and teacher funds to invest in equities. FAILED 42-58
- Amendment 3. Pension fund investments. Allows local government funds to invest in equities. FAILED 44-56

South Dakota

The four amendments were placed on the ballot by the legislature. The initiatives are statutes.

- Amendment G. Legislator travel expenses. Increases reimbursements. FAILED 41-59
- Amendment H. Corporations. Removes restrictions on stocks and bonds. FAILED 31-69
- Amendment I. Legislature sessions. Allows 40-day vs. 35-day sessions in odd-numbered years. APPROVED 52-48
- Amendment J. Term limits. Repeals legislative term limits. FAILED 24-76

Oregon voters rejected a limit on bilingual education, and a requirement that teacher salaries be based on classroom performance.

- Initiated Measure 9. Short sales. Prohibits short sales of stock. FAILED 43-57
- Initiated Measure 10. Campaign. Prohibits use of government resources for campaigning and lobbying, bans awarding to contracts to those who employ legislators. FAILED 35-65
- Initiated Measure 11. Abortion. Bans abortion, exceptions for rape and health of mother. FAILED 45-55

Utah

All five measures are constitutional amendments placed on ballot by legislature.

- Amendment 1. Gubernatorial succession. Establishes procedures for Gov. and Lt. Gov. AP-PROVED 76-24
- Amendment 2. State trust fund. Provides that fund includes all money and asset of fund. AP-PROVED 66-34
- Amendment 3. Legislative sessions. Changes first day of session to one week later. APPROVED 71-29
- Amendment 4. Redistricting. Requires redistricting after Census count. APPROVED 78-22
- Amendment 5. Allows state to invest in stocks and bonds. FAILED 43-57

Washington

All three measures are initiative statutes.

- I-985. Car pool lanes. Opens car pool lanes to all drivers outside of rush hour. FAILED 40-60
- I-1000. Death with Dignity. Allows suicide by terminally ill. APPROVED 58-42
- I-1029. Long term health care workers. Requires certification and training. APPROVED 72-28

Wyoming

Both measures were placed on ballot by legislature.

- Constitutional Amendment A. Oath of office. Updates. APPROVED 82-18
- Constitutional Amendment B. Initiative petitions. Changes dispersion requirement to 15% of voters in 2/3 of state senate districts (from counties), presumably makes signature collection more difficult because there are more senate districts. FAILED 54-46 (the number of no votes plus the number of abstentions exceeded affirmative votes).

Washington voters approved physicianassisted suicide.

PRE-NOVEMBER ELECTION RESULTS

The following propositions were decided by voters in elections held earlier this year.

Alaska (August 26)

All four measures were initiatives.

- Ballot Measure 1. Gambling. Authorizes lotteries and casino games. FAILED 39-61
- Ballot Measure 2. Aerial hunting. Limits aerial hunting of wolves and bears. FAILED 45-55
- Ballot Measure 3. Public campaign funding. Established voluntary system for public funding of campaigns. FAILED 36-64
- Ballot Measure 4. Water pollution. Bans toxic discharges by new metallic mining operations. FAILED 44-56

California (February 5)

Propositions 91-93 were initiatives. Propositions 94-97 were referendums that asked voters to repeal gaming compacts with tribes. Voters upheld all of the compacts.

- Prop 91. Transportation funds. Prevented diversion of transportation funds. FAILED 42-58
- Prop 92. Community college funds. Guaranteed community colleges 10.46 of state education spending, capped tuition. FAILED 43-57
- Prop 93. Term limits. Increase in legislative term limits. FAILED 46-54
- Prop 94. Gaming compact. Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians. APPROVED 56-44
- Prop 95. Gaming compact. Morongo Band of Mission Indians. APPROVED 56-44
- Prop 96. Gaming compact. Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay Nation. APPROVED 55-45
- Prop 97. Gaming compact. Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. APPROVED 55-45

California (June 6)

Both propositions were initiatives.

- Prop 98. Eminent domain limit and rent control ban. FAILED 38-62
- Prop 99. Eminent domain. Limits eminent domain for residences. APPROVED 62-38

Florida (January 29)

 Amendment 1. Property taxes. Legislative measure that allows owners to maintain 3% assessment cap when they sell home, doubles homestead exemption. APPROVED 64-36

Maine (June 10)

• Question 1. \$29.725 million bonds for transportation (legislative). APPROVED 58-42

Nebraska (May 13)

• Amendment 1. Legislative measure that allows charter cities to invest public endowment funds in equities. APPROVED 58-42

North Dakota (June 10)

 Constitutional Measure 1. Legislative proposal to remove prohibition on appointing legislator to office when salary of office has increased during his or her term. FAILED 42-58

Twenty-one propositions were decided in elections held before November 4.

PRE-NOVEMBER ELECTION RESULTS

Oregon (May 20)

All three measures were constitutional amendments placed on ballot by legislature.

- Measure 51. Empowers crime victims to enforce Section 42 rights. APPROVED 75-25 •
- Measure 52. Empowers crime victims to enforce their Section 43 rights. APPROVED 75-25
- Measure 53. Allows forfeiture of property for certain crimes. APPROVED 50.1-49.9 .

Wisconsin (April 1)

Question 1. Executive veto. Legislative measure that prohibits governor from using partial veto to . create one sentence from multiple sentences. APPROVED 71-29

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