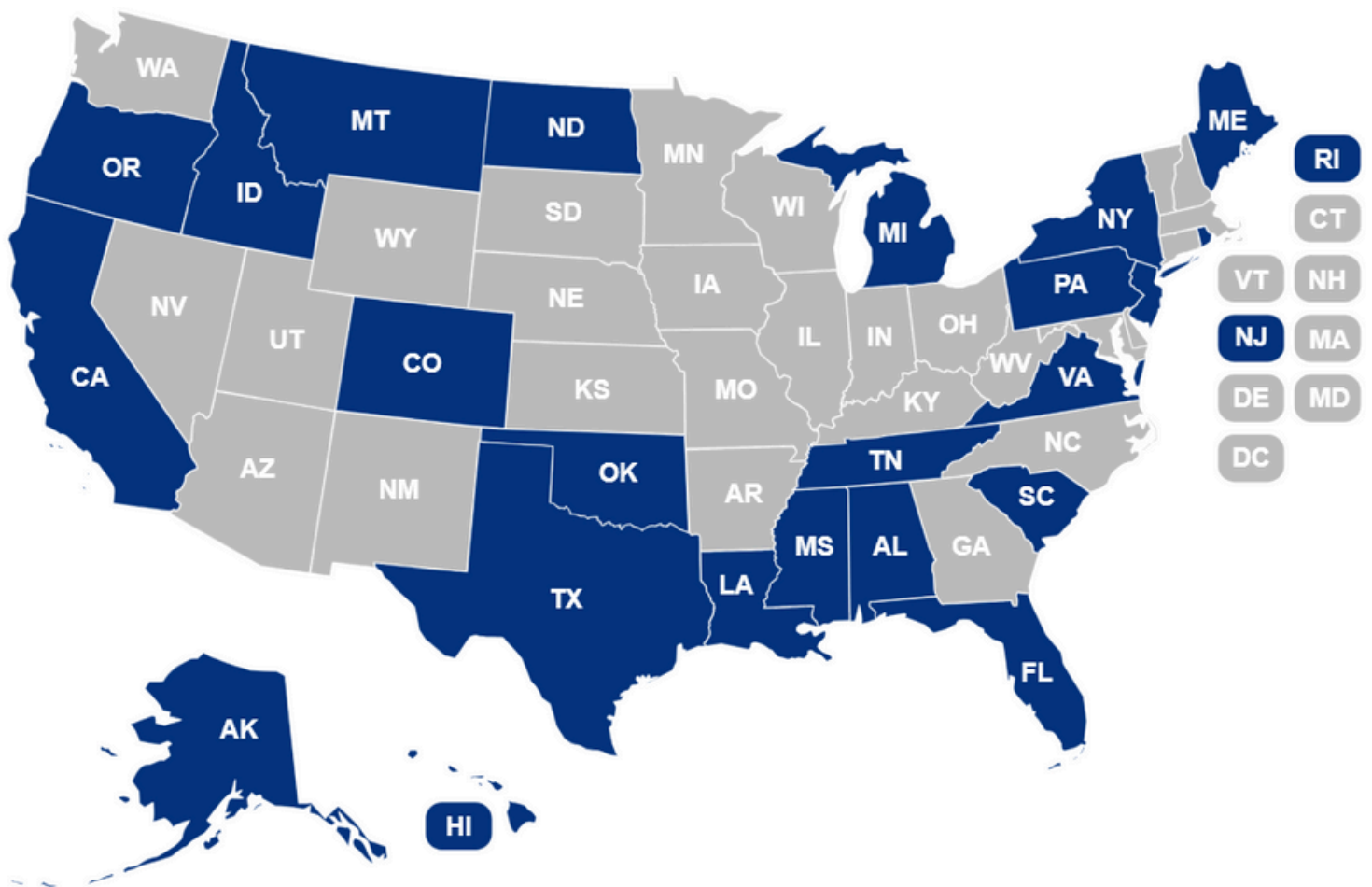


# SIMPLIFIED BALLOT LANGUAGE HISTORY BY STATE

Year	State	Standard Used
1954	MI	"Summary is limited to not more than 100 words... Clearly write using words that have a common everyday meaning"
1986	PA	"Prepare a statement in plain English which indicates the purpose, limitations and effects of the ballot question"
1992	OK	"In basic words, which can be easily found in dictionaries of general usage, the effect of the proposition; Shall not contain any words which have a special meaning"
1994	CA	"Public review process for a period of 30 days... true and impartial synopsis of the purpose... in language that is neither argumentative nor likely to create prejudice"
1999	MT	"In plain, easily understood language"
2005	ID	"Include a clear and concise statement as to the effect of a 'yes' or 'no' vote"
2006	VA	"A statement of not more than 500 words... Explanation shall be presented in plain English"
2010	AK	"Clear, concise, and easily readable... that is scored at approximately 60 [a 10th-12th grade reading level]."
2011	HI	"Shall be clear and it shall be neither misleading nor deceptive"
2013	MS	"The statement shall avoid, whenever possible, the use of legal terminology or jargon and shall use instead, simple, ordinary, everyday language."
2013	NJ	"Simple language that can be easily understood by the voter."

Year	State	Standard Used
2016	TN	"Written in a clear and coherent manner using words with common everyday meanings."
2018	LA	"Simple, unbiased, concise, and easily understood language... shall not exceed two hundred words in length"
2019	ME	"In a clear, concise and direct manner that describes the subject matter of the people's veto or direct initiative as simply as is possible."
2019	TX	"A plain language description"
2020	AL	"Ballot statements shall be written in plain, nontechnical language and in a clear and coherent manner using words with common and every day meaning that are understandable to the average reader."
2020	FL	"In clear and unambiguous language."
2020	CO	"Consider the public confusion that might be caused by misleading titles"
2020	SC	"If it might not be clearly understood by the voters, a simplified or, when appropriate, more detailed explanation of the meaning and effect of such amendment shall be placed upon the ballot."
2021	OR	"A simple and understandable statement of not more than 25 words"
2023	NY	"Up to thirty words written in plain language... a statement of what a yes or no vote means... that identifies the practical outcome... 15 day public comment [period]... no higher than an eighth grade reading level"
2023	ND	"Written in plain, clear, understandable language using words with common, everyday meaning"
2024	RI	"Require that the question shall be stated in plain language reasonably calculated to be understood by persons with an eighth-grade reading level."
		As of January 2025

# SIMPLIFIED BALLOT LANGUAGE HISTORY BY STATE



As of January 2025