

The Committee to Keep Doves Protected

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*****EDITOR'S NOTE:** In light of the Michigan Board of Canvassers approval of official ballot language for the referendum on a new dove shooting season, "The Committee to Restore the Dove Shooting Ban" has changed its name to "The Committee to Keep Doves Protected." This new name now more accurately reflects the group's mission: to urge Michigan residents to vote "No" on Proposal 3 to keep doves protected. The group's website has also changed; it has been completely revamped and is now www.NoOnProp3.com. Also note that official language of Proposal 3, as approved by the Board of Canvassers, follows this news release.

Ballot Language Set for Dove Shooting Referendum

*Board of Canvassers Assigns Referendum Number "Proposal 3";
Voters will Choose Either "Yes" on 3 to Create a New Dove Season, or
Vote "No" to Keep Doves Protected*

(LANSING) – Official language has been set for the referendum on dove shooting that Michigan voters will be asked to decide on Election Day. Michigan's Board of Canvassers has approved language for the proposal as it will appear on the ballot, assigned the referendum number proposal 3, and confirmed that voters will vote "Yes" to create a new dove season in Michigan or vote "No" to continue Michigan's 100 year tradition of protecting doves.

Representatives of The Committee to Keep Doves Protected, the coalition of Michigan hunters, farmers, biologists, faith-based groups, humane societies, environmentalists, and other concerned residents urging a "No" vote on Proposal 3 to Keep Doves Protected, said they accepted proposed language from the Secretary of State and urged the Board to approve it.

"Our main concern was that the ballot language was clear so that voters knew a 'Yes' vote was for dove shooting and a 'No' vote was for keeping doves protected," said Julie Baker, Director of The Committee to Keep Doves Protected. "It's important everyone understands that a 'Yes' vote will authorize a dove season statewide, not only in limited areas," said Baker. "If you do not want dove shooting in your area or across Michigan, then you must vote 'No' on Proposal 3."

Mourning doves had been protected in Michigan since 1905, until the state legislature narrowly passed a bill creating a dove shooting season in 2004. The new law authorized a statewide season on mourning doves, but

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the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, whom the law specified would administrate the season, decided, due to significant public opposition, to initially only open six southwestern Michigan counties for an experimental first season. As the 2004 bill allowed the DNR to open a statewide season, they could have, at any time, opened the season across Michigan. There has been some misconception that Proposal 3 only deals with a limited six county hunt, or will only last three seasons and end, but that is not the case. As a “Yes” vote on Proposal 3 approves the law that authorized the season, and that law authorized a statewide season, a “Yes” vote on 3 is a vote to authorize the shooting of doves statewide permanently.

In 2005, the Committee to Keep Doves Protected (then known as the Committee to Restore the Dove Shooting Ban), gathered 275,000 signatures to get the 2004 law creating a dove season on the November 2006 ballot, freezing the law and again protecting doves in Michigan until the November '06 election. Voters now have the opportunity to vote “Yes” to uphold the 2004 policy change (authorizing a statewide dove season) or to vote “No” to reject the policy change (thereby continuing Michigan’s tradition of protecting doves).

The Committee to Keep Doves Protected has only one goal—to restore Michigan’s 100-year tradition of protecting mourning doves, Michigan’s Official Bird of Peace. The Committee to Keep Doves Protected respects Michigan’s hunting heritage and represents a broad-based grassroots coalition of agricultural, conservation, humane, faith-based and community organizations and thousands of Michigan citizens who want to continue the protection of mourning doves as a traditional backyard songbird.

There’s **NO** good reason to shoot mourning doves:

- Doves are **NOT** overpopulated.
- Doves are **NOT** harmful to humans, property or crops.
- Doves are **NOT** shot for food, as they have little meat on their tiny bodies.
- Shooting doves amounts to **NOTHING** more than live target practice.
- There are already 40 game bird species in Michigan and there’s **NO** reason to add doves.
- Michigan traditionally protected mourning doves since 1905, and there’s **NO** reason to change that now.

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PROPOSAL 3

A REFERENDUM ON PUBLIC ACT 160 OF 2004 – AN ACT TO ALLOW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HUNTING SEASON FOR MOURNING DOVES

Public Act 160 of 2004 would:

- Authorize the Natural Resources Commission to establish a hunting season for mourning doves.
- Require a mourning dove hunter to have a small game license and a \$2.00 mourning dove stamp.
- Stipulate that revenue from the stamp must be split evenly between the Game and Fish Protection Fund and the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.
- Require the Department of Natural Resources to address responsible mourning dove hunting; management practices for the propagation of mourning doves; and participation in mourning dove hunting by youth, the elderly and the disabled in the Department’s annual hunting guide.

Should this law be approved?

Yes

No