

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

*OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE

Senate Joint Resolution No. 4

OWNERSHIP OF LAND BY ALIENS

Shall the constitutional restriction upon the ownership of land in the State of Washington by aliens be removed by repealing Section 33, Article II as amended by Amendments 24 and 29 of the State Constitution?

* As issued by John J. O'Connell, Attorney General.

Vote cast by 1959 Legislature on final passage of Senate Joint Resolution No. 4:

STATE SENATE: 49 Members—43 Yeas; 0 Nays; 6 Absent not voting.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: 99 Members—91 Yeas; 2 Nays; 6 Absent not voting.

OFFICIAL ARGUMENT **FOR** SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

WHAT IS SJR #4? It is a resolution passed almost unanimously by our State Legislature to repeal discriminatory practices pertaining to land ownership.

WHAT WILL A "YES" VOTE ON SJR #4 DO? It will stop discrimination against alien residents and will allow our people in Washington to own land. Presently, foreign corporations (such as those from Cuba) can own land in Washington, but residents aliens who have lived and raised families here for many years cannot.

WHO SUPPORTS A "YES" VOTE ON SJR NO. 4?

1. Government leaders in Washington of both political parties; Senators Warren G. Magnuson and Henry M. Jackson; Congressmen Walt Horan, Thor C. Tollefson, Thomas M. Pelly, Jack Westland, Don Magnuson and Congresswoman Catherine May; Governor Albert D. Rosellini; Mayors Gordon Clinton, Neal Fosseen, Ben Hanson, and many others.
2. All Western States: California, Utah, Oregon and Idaho, have already repealed similar laws.
3. Washington Organizations: American Legion, Republican Party, Democratic Party, Washington Association of Realtors, Washington State Grange, Seattle City Council, National Conference of Jewish Women, Seattle Civic Committee and many others.
4. Congress of the United States: Congress extended privilege of citizenship to all permanent legal residents aliens without regard to race. No more aliens "ineligible to citizenship".

WHY VOTE "YES" ON SJR NO. 4?

1. It is the right thing to do. Repeal a discriminatory and outmoded law.
2. It would allow resident (English, Norwegian, or any other) alien whose sons gave their lives so that we may live, the same rights as foreign corporations.
3. It would make our law consistent with laws in other Western States.
4. It would declare to the world that the people of Washington stand for Equality, Fair Play and Justice.

VOTE FOR EQUALITY, PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY!

VOTE "YES" ON SJR NO. 4.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO COMPOSE ARGUMENT FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

MARK LITCHMAN, JR.
State Representative
13706 2nd Avenue N.E.
Seattle, Washington

JOHN N. RYDER
State Senator
6811 55th Avenue N.E.
Seattle, Washington

JOHN L. KING
President, Board of Regents
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

EXPLANATORY COMMENT ISSUED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AS REQUIRED BY LAW

THE LAW AS IT NOW EXISTS:

The Washington constitution now prohibits the ownership of certain land by certain aliens.

Ownership of land in this state by aliens who have not declared their intention to become United States citizens is prohibited, except where acquired by inheritance, under mortgage or in good faith in the ordinary course of justice in the collection of debts.

The prohibition does not apply to Canadian citizens of those Provinces which do not prohibit the ownership of provincial lands by citizens of Washington. In addition, the prohibition does not cover lands containing certain minerals and necessary land for mills and machinery to be used in developing those minerals and in manufacturing products from such minerals.

EFFECT OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4 IF APPROVED INTO LAW:

The passage of the proposed constitutional amendment would repeal the existing constitutional prohibition on ownership of lands by aliens.

NOTE: Complete text of Senate Joint Resolution No. 4 appears on Page 28.

OFFICIAL ARGUMENT AGAINST SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Land ownership is the basis of our American Heritage and should be a privilege enjoyed only by citizens of this state and nation. The framers of our State Constitution in their wisdom appreciated this fact and so incorporated the land ownership provision.

With population pressures building up all over the world and the depletion of natural resources everywhere it becomes increasingly necessary to frame a state and national policy which preserves for our citizens some security for the future.

There is a philosophy abroad in this country which says that we are a selfish people if we do not share all our material wealth with other nations. When we consider the billions in foreign aid dispersed in almost every country around the world it is hard to believe that we are selfish.

It is said that certain people are treated unjustly and are made to suffer hardships because of our alien land law. Certainly we may find such cases but they do not justify repeal which would open land ownership to people and corporations the world over.

Because of pressures which are certain to build up, the Alien Ownership Land Law can never be reinstated if once repealed.

Protect your American Heritage and preserve it for future generations.

Vote NO on Senate Joint Resolution No. 4.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO COMPOSE ARGUMENT **AGAINST** SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

DAVID E. McMILLAN
State Senator
Route 3, Colville

NOTE: The new state law changing the format of the Voters' Pamphlet provides that in the instance of a proposed constitutional amendment, the committee appointed to write an argument, either for or against the proposal, should consist of at least one state senator and one state representative. After exhaustive contacts were made, only State Senator David E. McMillan of the 1959 Legislature was willing to submit an argument against Senate Joint Resolution No. 4.

Complete Text of Proposed Constitutional Amendment

Senate Joint Resolution No. 4

Be It Resolved, By the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Washington in legislative session assembled:

THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state there shall be submitted to the qualified voters of this state, for their adoption or rejection, the following proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of Washington:

Section 33, Article II and Amendments 24 and 29 amendatory thereof, of the Constitution of the State of Washington are each hereby repealed.

And Be It Further Resolved, That the secretary of state shall cause the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published for at least three months next preceding the election in a weekly newspaper in every county in the state in which such a newspaper is published.

Passed the Senate February 27, 1959.
JOHN A. CHERBERG,
President of the Senate.

Passed the House February 26, 1959.
JOHN L. O'BRIEN,
Speaker of the House.

EXPLANATORY COMMENT:

All the words printed below in italics are in our State Constitution at the present time and are being taken out by this amendment.

Sec. 33, Article II (as amended): Alien Ownership. The ownership of lands by aliens, other than those who in good faith have declared their intention to become citizens of the United States, is prohibited in this state, except where acquired by inheritance, under mortgage or in good faith in the ordinary course of justice in the collection of debts; and all conveyances of lands hereafter made to any alien directly, or in trust for such alien, shall be void: Provided, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to lands containing valuable deposits of minerals, metals, iron, coal, or fire clay, and the necessary land for mills and machinery to be used in the development thereof and the manufacture of the products therefrom: And provided further, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to the citizens of such of the Provinces of the Dominion of Canada as do not expressly or by implication prohibit ownership of provincial lands by citizens of this state.