

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

*OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25

PUBLICATION OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Shall Section 1, Article XXIII, of the State Constitution requiring publication of the text of each proposed constitutional amendment in a weekly newspaper in each county for three months prior to the election, be amended so as to require only that notice of the proposed constitutional amendment be published at least four times during the four weeks preceding the election in every legal newspaper in the state?

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

Vote cast by 1961 Legislature on final passage of Senate Joint Resolution No. 25: STATE SENATE: 49 Yeas; 0 Nays; 2 Absent or not voting. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: 99 Members—68 Yeas; 4 Nays; 27 Absent or not voting.

OFFICIAL ARGUMENT **FOR** SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25 To Understand Constitutional Amendments Better **VOTE "YES" ON S. J. R. No. 25**

The purpose of S.J.R. 25 is to give the voting public a **better understanding** of proposed amendments to our State Constitution—at **equal or less cost** than at present.

The Constitution now requires that when a proposed amendment be published in **some weekly newspaper** in each county for **three months** preceding the election.

Instead, S.J.R. would provide that an explanation of each proposed amendment be published once each week for **four weeks** preceding the election in each **legal newspaper** in the state. (Most daily and weekly newspapers in the state are "legal newspapers.")

The **present** constitutional provision is:

INADEQUATE—It does **not** provide the voters with an **understanding** of the issues. Only a tiny fraction of the voters are reached by "some weekly newspaper in each county."

WASTEFUL —It is unnecessary to publish information on ballot issues for **three months** before an election. It is wasteful to pay for advertising in **August** for a **November** election.

CONFUSING —Because of legal technicalities, printing of the **text** of a proposal (without an explanation) frequently confuses voters and may even lead them to vote for measures they oppose, and vice versa.

S.J.R. NO. 25 CORRECTS ALL THESE DEFECTS:

Almost every voter reads some legal newspaper each week. An **explanation** of the issues, appearing once each week for **four weeks** in each **legal newspaper** would provide understanding of the issues—**when it is needed**—and at **equal or less cost to the state** than at present.

The present terms of the Constitution this year require the expenditure of \$143,931.06 to publish the text of the proposed amendments in "some weekly newspaper in each county." Did you **see** those notices? Did you understand them?

Every Voter Deserves the Opportunity to Understand Important Ballot Issues S.J.R. NO. 25 PROVIDES THAT OPPORTUNITY

VOTE "YES" ON S. J. R. No. 25

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO COMPOSE ARGUMENT **FOR** SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25

MIKE McCORMACK
State Senator
2010 Everest
Richland, Washington

JOEL PRITCHARD
State Representative
3233 29th West
Seattle, Washington

LEW SELVIDGE, Sec.
Allied Daily Newspapers
119 North Washington St.
Olympia, Washington

ROBERT SHAW, Manager
Wash. Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

EXPLANATORY COMMENT ISSUED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AS REQUIRED BY LAW

The Law As It Now Exists:

Section 1, Article XXIII of the State Constitution presently requires that the text of each proposed constitutional amendment be published in some weekly newspaper in every county where a newspaper is published for three months immediately prior to the election at which the proposed amendment is to be voted upon.

Effect of Senate Joint Resolution No. 25 If Approved Into Law:

The proposed amendment would amend section 1, Article XXIII, of the State Constitution so as to require instead that notice of the proposed constitutional amendment be published in every legal newspaper in the state at least four times during the four weeks immediately preceding the election at which the proposed amendment is to be voted upon.

NOTE: Complete text of Senate Joint Resolution No. 25 appears on Page 43.

OFFICIAL ARGUMENT AGAINST SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25

The objection to this proposed amendment is that the cure is worse than the disease.

It is conceded that S.J.R. No. 25 does contain worthwhile changes. Certainly it is ridiculous that the advertising of constitutional amendments be made for three continuous months (**14 consecutive weeks**) prior to each state general election. Further, an official explanation of a proposed constitutional amendment has far more meaning to the average voter than the full text of the proposal.

However, at this point we part company with concurring as to the wisdom of S.J.R. No. 25.

This amendment would require that **every** legal newspaper publish the explanatory statements concerning each constitutional amendment for four weeks prior to the election. This means not only the daily newspapers, but, **in addition, all weekly newspapers which total over 170 in the state.**

The tremendous cost of advertising the proposed constitutional amendments in over **170** weekly newspapers far exceeds the dubious benefits derived.

A far better proposal, **from the standpoint of the taxpayer**, would be to limit this advertising to the **daily** newspapers. **This would give adequate notice at a fraction of the cost.** (Keep in mind that the same information is contained in the Voters' Pamphlet.)

Here is an opportunity for the citizens to inform the members of the State Legislature that the taxpayers are sick and tired of wasteful expenditures of public funds. Let's tell the Legislature to go "back to the drawing board" and draft a more reasonable and practicable proposal to cure a bad situation.

VOTE "NO" ON SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 25

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO COMPOSE ARGUMENT **AGAINST** SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 25

STANLEY PENCE
State Representative
Rte. 8, Box 81, Yakima, Wash.

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. Since no state senator voted against Senate Resolution No. 25 on final passage, State Representative Stanley Pence, alone, composed the above argument against this proposed constitutional amendment.

election in a weekly newspaper in every county in the state in which such a newspaper is published.

Passed the Senate Feb. 14, 1961.
JOHN A. CHERBERG,
President of the Senate.

Passed the House Mar. 6, 1961.
JOHN L. O'BRIEN,
Speaker of the House.

EXPLANATORY COMMENT S.J.R. NO. 9:

All words underscored do not appear in our State Constitution as it is now written but will be put in if this amendment is adopted.

VICTOR A. MEYERS, Secretary of State

COMPLETE TEXT OF

Senate Joint Resolution No. 21

BE IT RESOLVED, *By the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Washington in Legislative Session Assembled:*

THAT, At the general election to be held in this state on the Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in November, 1962, 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 newspaper is published.

Passed the Senate Feb. 24, 1961.
JOHN A. CHERBERG,
President of the Senate.

Passed the House Mar. 5, 1961.
JOHN L. O'BRIEN,
Speaker of the House.

EXPLANATORY COMMENT S.J.R. NO. 21:

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

VICTOR A. MEYERS, Secretary of State

~~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.~~

COMPLETE TEXT OF

Senate Joint Resolution No. 25

BE IT RESOLVED, *By the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Washington in Legislative Session Assembled:*

THAT, At the general election to be held in this state on the Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in

November, 1962, there shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article XXIII, section 1 of the Constitution of the State of Washington, to read as follows:

Article XXIII, section 1. Any amendment or amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in either branch of the legislature; and if the same shall be agreed to by two-thirds of the members elected to each of the two houses, such proposed amendment or amendments shall be entered on their journals, with the ayes and noes thereon, and be submitted to the qualified electors of the state for their approval, at the next general election; and if the people approve and ratify such amendment or amendments, by a majority of the electors voting thereon, the same shall become part of this Constitution, and proclamation thereof shall be made by the governor: PROVIDED, that if more than one amendment be submitted, they shall be submitted in such a manner that the people may vote for or against such amendments separately. The legislature shall also cause notice of the amendments that are to be submitted to the people to be published ((for at least three months next preceding the election, in some weekly newspaper, in every county where a newspaper is published throughout the state)) at least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal newspaper in the state: PRO-VIDED, That failure of any newspaper to publish this notice shall not be interpreted as affecting the outcome of the election.

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 Feb. 24, 1961.
JOHN A. CHERBERG,
President of the Senate.

Passed the House Mar. 8, 1961.
JOHN L. O'BRIEN,
Speaker of the House.

EXPLANATORY COMMENT S.J.R. NO. 25:

All words in double parentheses and lined through are in our State Constitution at the present and are being taken out by this amendment. All words underscored do not appear in the State Constitution as it is now written but will be put in if this amendment is adopted.

VICTOR A. MEYERS, Secretary of State

COMPLETE TEXT OF

*Substitute House
Joint Resolution No. 1*

BE IT RESOLVED, *By the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Washington in Legislative Session Assembled:*

THAT, At the general election to be held in this state on the Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in November, 1962, there shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the state, for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article 7, section 2 as amended by Amendment 17 of the Constitution of the State of Washington, by adding thereto a new subsection designated as subsection () which shall read as follows: