

SUBSTITUTE

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

4

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

Official Ballot Title:*

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Shall Article VI of the state constitution be amended to allow United States citizens meeting all constitutional qualifications for voting in the state, except for length of residence, to vote at a United States presidential election solely for presidential electors or for the office of president and vice president if they

- (1) Intend to make this state their permanent residence; and
- (2) Have resided in the state at least sixty days immediately preceding the particular presidential election?

Vote cast by members of the 1965 Legislature on final passage:
SENATE: (49 members) Yeas, 45; Nays, 2; Absent or not voting, 2.
HOUSE: (99 members) Yeas, 95; Nays, 0; Absent or not voting, 4.

*Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General.

Statement **FOR**

New residents lose right to vote

Persons who are citizens of the United States and may have voted for many years are shocked to learn that upon moving to the State of Washington, during a presidential election year, they have not only become disfranchised for the state election but, above all, cannot vote for the national office of President. This is because our constitution at the present time requires a full year's residence to be eligible to vote any ballot.

HJR 4 would correct this injustice by allowing such persons who are qualified in every respect (except for the year's residence) to vote a special ballot, restricted to candidates for President and Vice President, if the new voters have lived here for at least sixty days prior to the election.

Nation-wide movement to adopt similar change

Because of the increasing mobility of our population, there is now a nation-wide movement among the states to protect the right of citizens to vote for the national office of President, when moving to another state during an election year. Eighteen states have already adopted such provision. In addition, the voters of Florida as well as those of Wash-

ington will have the opportunity to increase the total to twenty states on November 8.

How the limited voting procedure would work

If HJR 4 is approved, the 1967 Legislature would enact implementing legislation to set up procedures for a special presidential ballot. Special provisions will be included in the statute to cover violations. Experienced election officers have recommended that all such voting to be done by a special absentee ballot to eliminate any possibility of confusion at the polls. In addition, all applications would be channeled through the Secretary of State's office in the same manner as members of the armed forces now vote absentee ballots, to eliminate duplications. The experience of the other eighteen states, who have adopted similar legislation, has proven this type of voting to be most successful.

Help modernize our election laws by voting Yes when marking your ballot on HJR 4.

"Be fair. Be For 4."

Committee appointed to compose statement **FOR** Sub. HJR No. 4:

MICHAEL J. GALLAGHER, State Senator; C. W. (RED) BECK, State Representative; Mrs. ALLEN L. EDWARDS, President, League of Women Voters of Washington; JOE DAVIS, President, Washington State Labor Council.

*Explanatory comment issued by the
Attorney General as required by law*

vote in such election for presidential electors, or for the offices of President and Vice-President of the United States, as the case may be, but for no others.

The Law as it now exists:

Presently, under Article VI, section 1, of the state constitution, a person, in order to vote at any election conducted in this state, must

- (1) Be at least twenty-one years of age;
- (2) Be able to read and speak the English language;
- (3) Be a citizen of the United States; and
- (4) Have lived in the state for one year, in the county ninety days, and in the city, town, ward or precinct thirty days immediately preceding the election at which such person offers to vote.

Effect of Sub. House Joint Resolution No. 4 if approved into Law:

The proposed amendment would allow those persons who can meet all the above qualifications for voting except for residence and who shall have resided in this state at least sixty days immediately preceding a presidential election with the intention of making this state their permanent residence, to

Note: Complete text of Sub. House Joint Resolution No. 4 appears on Page 43.

Statement AGAINST

This proposed constitutional amendment was approved by all but two members of the 1965 Legislature in its Extraordinary Session. Further, no member of the Legislature could be enlisted to write a statement against the proposal for publication in this pamphlet.

A. LUDLOW KRAMER, *Secretary of State*

Passed the Senate March 23, 1965. Passed the House March 29, 1965.
JOHN A. CHERBERG, JOHN A. CHERBERG,
President of the Senate. Robert M. Schaefer,
Speaker of the House.

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

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

A. LUDLOW KRAMER, Secretary of State.

COMPLETE TEXT OF

Proposed
Constitutional Amendment
Sub. HOUSE JOINT **4**
RESOLUTION

Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General:

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS FOR
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Shall Article VI of the state constitution be amended to allow United States citizens meeting all constitutional qualifications for voting in the state, except for length of residence, to vote at a United States presidential election solely for presidential electors or for the office of president and vice president if they

- (1) Intend to make this state their permanent residence; and
- (2) Have resided in the state at least sixty days immediately preceding the particular presidential election?

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, 1966, there shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their approval and ratification, or rejection, a proposal to amend Article VI of the Constitution of the State of Washington by adding thereto a new section to be known as section 1A, to read as follows:

NEW SECTION. Article VI, section 1A. In consideration of those citizens of the United States who become residents of the state of Washington during the year of a presidential election with the intention of making this state their permanent residence, this section is for the purpose of authorizing such persons who can meet all qualifications for voting as set forth in section 1 of this article, except for residence, to vote for presidential electors or for the office of President and Vice-President of the United States, as the case may be, but no other: PROVIDED, That such persons have resided in the state at least sixty days immediately preceding the presidential election concerned.

The legislature shall establish the time, manner and place for such person to cast such presidential ballots.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the

secretary of state shall cause notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal newspaper in the state.

Passed the House April 23, 1965. Passed the Senate April 22, 1965.
Robert M. Schaefer, JOHN A. CHERBERG,
Speaker of the House. President of the Senate.

EXPLANATORY COMMENT SUB. H.J.R. NO. 4:

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

A. LUDLOW KRAMER, Secretary of State.

COMPLETE TEXT OF

Proposed
Constitutional Amendment
HOUSE JOINT **7**
RESOLUTION

Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General:

RETIRED PERSONS PROPERTY
TAX EXEMPTION

Shall Article VII of the state constitution be amended to authorize the legislature to grant relief from property taxes on real property owned and occupied as a residence by retired persons, subject to such restrictions and conditions as the legislature may establish, including but not limited to level of income and length of residence?

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 the state for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article VII of the Constitution of the state of Washington, by adding a new section thereto to read as follows:

NEW SECTION. Article VII, section 10. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 7, section 1 (Amendment 14) and Article 7, section 2 (Amendment 17), the following tax exemption shall be allowed as to real property:

The legislature shall have the power, by appropriate legislation, to grant to retired property owners relief from the property tax on the real property occupied as a residence by those owners. The legislature may place such restrictions and conditions upon the granting of such relief as it shall deem proper. Such restrictions and conditions may include, but are not limited to, the limiting of the relief to those property owners below a specific level of income and those fulfilling certain minimum residential requirements.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at least four times during the four weeks next pre-