

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 20

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

*Official Ballot Title:**

REMOVING LIMITATION ON LAND OWNERSHIP

Shall the limitation on the ownership of land in the State of Washington by certain non-citizens be removed by repealing section 33, Article II, as amended by Amendments 24 and 29 of the state constitution?

Vote cast by members of the 1965 Legislature on final passage:
SENATE: (49 members) Yeas, 42; Nays 1; Absent or not voting, 6.
HOUSE: (99 members) Yeas, 94; Nays, 0; Absent or not voting, 5.

*Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General.

Statement **FOR**

S.J.R. No. 20 is a resolution passed (136-1) by the 1965 State Legislature to repeal inconsistent and unreasonable features of our state land laws. Public approval of S.J.R. 20 will permit Washington to become the final state to repeal these obsolete land laws.

Vote "Yes" Because:

1. People from other nations who come to the State of Washington to work at important jobs in our thriving economy, at the invitation of Washington companies, are restricted by a 77-year-old law from owning their own homes and other property.
2. Washington, as one of the key states of the great "Pacific Rim" trading area, must suffer the embarrassment of explaining why it maintains an obsolete and unfair law restricting property ownership.
3. Oregon, Idaho and California — states which compete for trade and skilled workers with Washington—have already repealed obsolete property laws and permit people from other nations to own property.
4. We currently permit foreign corporations to own property in Washington, but not people from other nations who move with their families into the state.

5. A "Yes" vote on S.J.R. No. 20 will correct the inequities of our land law, let us compete with Oregon, Idaho, California and other states on equal terms, improve our economic future and maintain Washington's reputation as a state where the people of other nations are welcome.

State Citizens Coordinating Committee for Senate Joint Resolution No. 20: William M. Allen, President, The Boeing Company; Joe Davis, President, Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO; Henry Kruse, Department Commander, American Legion, Dept. of Washington; Very Reverend John A. Fitterer, S.J., President, Seattle University; Louis J. Burkey, President, Washington Land Title Association; Lawrence Mabry, President, Washington Association of Realtors; A. Lars Nelson, Master, Washington State Grange; Jim Martin, President, Home Builders of Washington State; Reno K. Odlin, President, Puget Sound National Bank; Dr. Charles E. Odegaard, President, University of Washington; Dr. C. Clement French, former President, Washington State University; Max Benitz, President, Washington State Farm Bureau.

Committee appointed to compose argument FOR Senate Joint Resolution No. 20:

WILLIAM (BILL) CHATALAS, State Representative, Seattle; WALTER B. WILLIAMS, State Senator, Seattle; JOSEPH DRUMHELLER, Businessman, Spokane.

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

The Law as it now exists:

There remains in our state constitution a limitation on land ownership by certain noncitizens who have not made a declaration of intention to become citizens of the United States. However, the constitution presently permits some noncitizens (including nonresidents) to own land:

(1) If acquired by inheritance, mortgage foreclosure, or in the ordinary course of justice in the collection of debts;

(2) If acquired by a corporation;

(3) If the land contains certain mineral deposits, or is necessary for mills and machinery to be used in developing those minerals and in manufacturing products from such minerals;

(4) If the landowners are Canadian citizens of provinces which do not prohibit the ownership of provincial lands by citizens of Washington state.

**Effect of Senate Joint Resolution
No. 20 if approved into Law:**

The passage of the proposed amendment would remove the remaining limitation on land ownership by noncitizens.

Note: Complete text of Senate Joint Resolution No. 20 appears on Page 41:

Statement **AGAINST**

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.

To remove a constitutional bar on land ownership by aliens tells the world that we, as citizens, have no special rights. The patriot fights for his home, his fireside and his land. Will the alien do likewise? The downfall of nations is preceded by the decline of patriotism.

I do not see how we discriminate against anyone with our Alien Land Law. No issue is raised as to color or to country of origin to obtain citizenship. The deciding factor in owning land is: Are you or are you not a citizen? National security could be jeopardized with excessive alien land ownership.

Our natural resources are not inexhaustible and must be preserved. Our nation must exercise some caution and restraint in global generosity or become a have not nation.

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

all people. It should be noted that aliens who declare an intention of becoming citizens may become land owners, subject to acquiring citizenship within a reasonable time.

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

Protect your American heritage and preserve it for future generations.

Committee appointed to compose argument AGAINST Senate Joint Resolution No. 20:

DAVID E. McMILLAN
State Senator

NOTE: The 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 representative voted against Senate Resolution No. 20 on final passage, State Senator David E. McMillan, alone, composed the above argument against this proposed constitutional amendment.

COMPLETE TEXT OF

**Proposed
Constitutional Amendment**

**SENATE JOINT
RESOLUTION 20**

Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General:

**REMOVING LIMITATION
ON LAND OWNERSHIP**

Shall the limitation on the ownership of land in the State of Washington by certain non-citizens be removed by repealing section 33, Article 11, as amended by Amendments 24 and 29 of the state constitution?

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 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 Senate March 8, 1965. Passed the House March 10, 1965.
JOHN A. CHERBERG, Robert M. Schaefer,
President of the Senate Speaker of the House.

EXPLANATORY COMMENT S.J.R. NO. 20:

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

A. LUDLOW KRAMER, 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

**Proposed
Constitutional Amendment**

**SENATE JOINT
RESOLUTION 22**

PART 1

Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General:

**ESTABLISHING COMMON SCHOOL
CONSTRUCTION FUND**

Shall Article IX, section 3, of the state constitution be amended to establish a common school construction fund to be used to finance common school construction, with funds to be derived from (1) certain proceeds from timber and other crops from school and state lands, (2) certain interest, rentals and revenues from the permanent school fund and from lands devoted to the permanent common school fund, and (3) such other sources as the legislature may provide?

PART 2

Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General:

**INVESTMENT OF PERMANENT
SCHOOL FUND**

Shall Article XVI, section 5, (Amendment 1) of the state constitution, restricting investment of the state's permanent school fund to national, state, county, municipal or school district bonds, be amended by removing this restriction and thereby permitting the permanent school fund to be invested in such manner as may be authorized by act of the legislature?

BE IT RESOLVED, *By the Senate and 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 electors of the state, for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article IX, section 3, and an amendment to Article XVI, section 5 of the Constitution of the state of Washington, to read as follows:

Article IX, section 3. The principal of the common school fund as the same existed on June 30, 1965, shall remain permanent and irreducible. The said fund shall consist of the principal amount thereof existing on June 30, 1965, and such additions thereto as may be derived after June 30, 1965, from the following named sources, to wit: Appro-