

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 18CA

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Passed by the Legislature May 27, 1999

Introduced by Kristensen, 37; Raikes, 25

THE MEMBERS OF THE NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION, RESOLVE THAT:

Section 1. At the general election in November 2000 the following proposed amendment to the Constitution of Nebraska shall be submitted to the electors of the State of Nebraska for approval or rejection:

To amend Article III, sections 2 and 4, and Article XVI, section 1, and add a new section 3 to Article XVI:

III-2 "The first power reserved by the people is the initiative whereby laws may be enacted and constitutional amendments adopted by the people independently of the Legislature. This power may be invoked by petition wherein the proposed measure shall be set forth at length. If the petition ~~be is~~ for the enactment of a law, it shall be signed by seven percent of the registered voters of the state. ~~If , and if~~ the petition ~~be is~~ for the amendment of ~~the this~~ Constitution, the petition ~~therefor~~ shall be signed by ten percent of such registered voters. In all cases the registered voters signing such petition shall be so distributed as to include five percent of the registered voters of each of two-fifths of the counties of the state, and when thus signed, the petition shall be filed with the Secretary of State who shall submit the measure thus proposed to the electors of the state at the first general election held not less than four months after such petition shall have been filed. The same measure, either in form or in essential substance, shall not be submitted to the people by initiative petition, either affirmatively or negatively, more often than once in three years. If conflicting measures which propose the enactment of a law submitted to the people at the same election ~~be are~~ approved, the one receiving the highest number of affirmative votes shall thereby become law as to all conflicting provisions. If conflicting measures which propose a constitutional amendment submitted to the people at the same election are approved, the one receiving the highest number of affirmative votes shall be referred to the electorate for ratification pursuant to Article XVI, section 3, of this Constitution. The constitutional limitations as to the scope and subject matter of statutes enacted by the Legislature shall apply to those enacted by the initiative. Initiative measures shall contain only one subject."

III-4 "The whole number of votes cast for Governor at the general election next preceding the filing of an initiative or referendum petition shall be the basis on which the number of signatures to such petition shall be computed. The veto power of the Governor shall not extend to measures initiated by or referred to the people. A measure initiated which proposes the enactment of a law shall become a law or part of the Constitution, as the case may be, when a majority of the votes cast thereon, and not less than thirty-five ~~per cent~~ percent of the total vote cast at the election at which the same was submitted, are cast in favor thereof, and shall take effect upon proclamation by the Governor which shall be made within ten days after the official canvass of such votes. A measure initiated which proposes a constitutional amendment shall be referred to the electorate for ratification pursuant to Article XVI, section 3, of this Constitution, when a majority of the votes cast thereon, and not less than thirty-five percent of the total vote cast at the election at which the same was submitted, are cast in favor thereof. The vote upon initiative and referendum measures shall be returned and canvassed in the manner prescribed for the canvass of votes for president. The method of submitting ~~and adopting~~ amendments to the Constitution provided by this section shall be supplementary to the method prescribed in the article of this Constitution, entitled, "Amendments" and the latter shall in no case be construed to conflict herewith. The provisions with respect to the initiative and referendum shall be self-executing, but legislation may be enacted to facilitate their operation. All propositions submitted in pursuance hereof shall be submitted in a non-partisan manner and without any indication or suggestion on the ballot that they have been approved or endorsed by any political party or organization. Only the title or proper descriptive words of measures shall be printed on the ballot and when two or more measures have the same title they shall be numbered consecutively in the order of filing with the Secretary of State and the number shall be followed

by the name of the first petitioner on the corresponding petition. The ballot for a measure initiated which proposes a constitutional amendment shall include a notice that the measure is subject to a vote for ratification."

XVI-1 "The Legislature may propose amendments to this Constitution. If the same be agreed to by three-fifths of the members elected to the Legislature, such proposed amendments shall be entered on the journal, with yeas and nays, and published once each week for three consecutive weeks, in at least one newspaper in each county, where a newspaper is published, immediately preceding the next election of members of the Legislature or a special election called by the vote of four-fifths of the members elected to the Legislature for the purpose of submitting such proposed amendments to the electors. At such election said amendments shall be submitted to the electors for approval or rejection upon a ballot separate from that upon which the names of candidates appear. The ballot shall include a notice that the measure is subject to a vote for ratification. If a majority of the electors voting on any such amendment adopt the same, it shall ~~become a part of this Constitution,~~ provided be referred to the electorate for ratification pursuant to Article XVI, section 3, of this Constitution if the votes cast in favor of such amendment shall not be are not less than thirty-five per cent percent of the total votes cast at such election. When two or more amendments are submitted at the same election, they shall be so submitted as to enable the electors to vote on each amendment separately."

XVI-3 "(1) Before an amendment to this Constitution takes effect, there shall be two votes by the electors. The first vote for adoption of the amendment may be made pursuant to initiative as provided by Article III, sections 2 and 4, of this Constitution or pursuant to the Legislature proposing an amendment as provided by Article XVI, section 1, of this Constitution. The second vote shall be for ratification and shall be made pursuant to subsection (2) of this section.

(2) The proposed amendment shall, without change, be published once each week for three consecutive weeks, in at least one newspaper in each county, where a newspaper is published, immediately preceding the next election of members of the Legislature or a special election called by the vote of four-fifths of the members elected to the Legislature for the purpose of submitting such proposed amendment to the electors for ratification. At such election the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors for ratification. If a majority of the electors voting on any such amendment ratify the adoption of the same, it shall become a part of this Constitution if the votes cast in favor of such amendment at the election are not less than thirty-five percent of the total votes cast at such election."

Sec. 2. At the general election in November 2000 the following proposed amendment to the Constitution of Nebraska shall be submitted to the electors of the State of Nebraska for approval or rejection:

To amend Article III, section 2:

III-2 "The first power reserved by the people is the initiative whereby laws may be enacted and constitutional amendments adopted by the people independently of the Legislature. This power may be invoked by petition wherein the proposed measure shall be set forth at length. If the petition ~~be is~~ for the enactment of a law, it shall be signed by seven percent of the registered voters of the state. ~~If , and if~~ the petition ~~be is~~ for the amendment of ~~the~~ this Constitution, the petition ~~therefor~~ shall be signed by ten percent of such registered voters. In all cases the registered voters signing such petition shall be so distributed as to include five percent of the registered voters of each of two-fifths of the counties of the state, and when thus signed, the petition shall be filed with the Secretary of State who shall submit the measure thus proposed to the electors of the state at the first general election held not less than ~~four~~ nine months after such petition shall have been filed. The same measure, either in form or in essential substance, shall not be submitted to the people by initiative petition, either affirmatively or negatively, more often than once in three years. If conflicting measures submitted to the people at the same election ~~be are~~ approved, the one receiving the highest number of affirmative votes shall thereby become law as to all conflicting provisions. The constitutional limitations as to the scope and subject matter of statutes enacted by the Legislature shall apply to those enacted by the initiative. Initiative measures shall contain only one subject."

Sec. 3. At the general election in November 2000 the following proposed amendment to the Constitution of Nebraska shall be submitted to the electors of the State of Nebraska for approval or rejection:

To amend Article III, sections 1 and 5, and Article V, section 25:

III-1 "~~The Commencing with the regular session of the Legislature to be held in January, nineteen hundred and thirty seven,~~ the legislative

authority of the state shall be vested in a Legislature consisting of one chamber. The people reserve for themselves, ~~however,~~ the power to propose laws, and amendments to the ~~constitution,~~ Constitution and to enact or reject the same at the polls, independent of the Legislature, and which power shall be called the power of initiative. The people also reserve power at their own option to approve or reject at the polls any act, item, section, or part of any act passed by the Legislature, which power shall be called the power of referendum. All authority vested by the constitution or laws of the state in the Senate, House of Representatives, or joint session thereof, in so far as applicable, shall be and hereby is vested in said Legislature of one chamber. All provisions in the constitution and laws of the state relating to the Legislature, the Senate, the House of Representatives, joint sessions of the Senate and House of Representatives, Senator, or member of the House of Representatives, shall, in so far as said provisions are applicable, apply to and mean said Legislature of one chamber hereby created and the members thereof. All references to Clerk of House of Representatives or Secretary of Senate shall mean, when applicable, the Clerk of the Legislature of one chamber. All references to Speaker of the House of Representatives or temporary president of the Senate shall mean Speaker of the Legislature. Whenever any provision of the constitution requires submission of any matter to, or action by, the House of Representatives, the Senate, or joint session thereof, or the members of either body or both bodies, it shall after January first, nineteen hundred and thirty-seven, be construed to mean the Legislature herein provided for."

III-5 "The At the regular session of the Legislature held in the year nineteen hundred and thirty-five the Legislature shall by law determine the number of members to be elected and divide the state into legislative districts. In the creation of such districts, any county that contains population sufficient to entitle it to two or more members of the Legislature shall be divided into separate and distinct legislative districts, as nearly equal in population as may be and composed of contiguous and compact territory. One member of the Legislature shall be elected from each such district. The basis of apportionment shall be the population excluding aliens, as shown by the next preceding federal census. The Legislature shall redistrict the state after each federal decennial census. In any such redistricting, county lines shall be followed whenever practicable, but other established lines may be followed at the discretion of the Legislature."

V-25 "For the effectual administration of justice and the prompt disposition of judicial proceedings, the supreme court may promulgate rules of practice and procedure for all courts, uniform as to each class of courts, and not in conflict with laws governing such matters. To the same end, the court may, and when requested by the Legislature by ~~joint~~ resolution, shall, certify to the Legislature, its conclusions as to desirable amendments or changes in the general laws governing such practice and proceedings."

Sec. 4. The proposed amendments shall be submitted to the electors in the manner prescribed by the Constitution of Nebraska, Article XVI, section 1, with the following ballot language:

"A constitutional amendment to change election procedures for constitutional amendments to require two separate votes by the electorate.

For

Against".

"A constitutional amendment to change filing requirements for initiative petitions.

For

Against".

"A constitutional amendment to identify the powers of initiative and referendum and to remove obsolete language.

For

Against".