



General Assembly

**Governor's House
Joint Resolution No. 36**

January Session, 2013

LCO No. 2783



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:

REP. SHARKEY, 88th Dist.
REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th Dist.
SEN. WILLIAMS, 29th Dist.
SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE
CONSTITUTION TO GRANT INCREASED AUTHORITY TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

- 1 WHEREAS, at the 2012 regular session of the General Assembly of
2 the state of Connecticut, said General Assembly did approve, by at
3 least a majority, but by less than three-fourths, of the total membership
4 of each house, a resolution proposing an amendment to the
5 Constitution of the State which amendment, in accordance with article
6 sixth of the amendments to the Constitution, was published in the
7 manner prescribed therein and continued to the present regular
8 session of the General Assembly, and which resolution is as follows:
- 9 "Resolved by this Assembly:

10 That the following be proposed as an amendment to the
11 Constitution of the State, which, when approved and adopted in the
12 manner provided by the Constitution, shall, to all intents and
13 purposes, become a part thereof:

14 Section 1. Section 7 of article sixth of the Constitution is amended to
15 read as follows:

16 The general assembly may provide by law for voting in the choice of
17 any officer to be elected or upon any question to be voted on at an
18 election by qualified voters of the state who [are unable to appear at
19 the polling place on the day of election because of absence from the
20 city or town of which they are inhabitants or because of sickness or
21 physical disability or because the tenets of their religion forbid secular
22 activity] do not appear in person at a polling place on the day of an
23 election.

24 Sec. 2. Section 4 of article fourth of the Constitution is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 [At the meetings of the electors in the respective towns held
27 quadrennially as herein provided for the election of state officers, the
28 presiding officers shall receive the votes and shall count and declare
29 the same in the presence of the electors.] The votes at the election of
30 state officers shall be counted and declared in open meeting by the
31 presiding officers in the several towns. The presiding officers shall
32 make and certify duplicate lists of the persons voted for, and of the
33 number of votes for each. One list shall be delivered [within three
34 days] to the town clerk, and [within ten days after such meeting,] the
35 other shall be delivered under seal to the secretary of the state. The
36 votes so delivered shall be counted, canvassed and declared by the
37 treasurer, secretary, and comptroller, within the month of November.
38 The vote for treasurer shall be counted, canvassed and declared by the
39 secretary and comptroller only; the vote for secretary shall be counted,
40 canvassed and declared by the treasurer and comptroller only; and the

41 vote for comptroller shall be counted, canvassed and declared by the
42 treasurer and secretary only. A fair list of the persons and number of
43 votes given for each, together with the returns of the presiding officers,
44 shall be, by the treasurer, secretary and comptroller, made and laid
45 before the general assembly, then next to be held, on the first day of
46 the session thereof. In the election of governor, lieutenant-governor,
47 secretary, treasurer, comptroller and attorney general, the person
48 found upon the count by the treasurer, secretary and comptroller in
49 the manner herein provided, to be made and announced before
50 December fifteenth of the year of the election, to have received the
51 greatest number of votes for each of such offices, respectively, shall be
52 elected thereto; provided, if the election of any of them shall be
53 contested as provided by statute, and if such a contest shall proceed to
54 final judgment, the person found by the court to have received the
55 greatest number of votes shall be elected. If two or more persons shall
56 be found upon the count of the treasurer, secretary and comptroller to
57 have received an equal and the greatest number of votes for any of
58 said offices, and the election is not contested, the general assembly on
59 the second day of its session shall hold a joint convention of both
60 houses, at which, without debate, a ballot shall be taken to choose such
61 officer from those persons who received such a vote; and the balloting
62 shall continue on that or subsequent days until one of such persons is
63 chosen by a majority vote of those present and voting. The general
64 assembly shall have power to enact laws regulating and prescribing
65 the order and manner of voting for such officers. The general assembly
66 shall by law prescribe the manner in which all questions concerning
67 the election of a governor or lieutenant-governor shall be determined.

68 Sec. 3. Section 9 of article third of the Constitution is amended to
69 read as follows:

70 At all elections for members of the general assembly the presiding
71 officers in the several towns shall [receive the votes of the electors,
72 and] count and declare [them] the votes of the electors in open
73 meeting. The presiding officers shall make and certify duplicate lists of

74 the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each. One list
75 shall be delivered [within three days] to the town clerk, and [within
76 ten days after such meeting,] the other shall be delivered under seal to
77 the secretary of the state.

78 RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the
79 Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly
80 elected at the general election to be held on November 6, 2012, and
81 published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented
82 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 6, 2012,
83 whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the
84 amendments to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed
85 amendment to be used on ballots at such election shall be "Shall the
86 Constitution of the State be amended to remove restrictions concerning
87 absentee ballots and to permit a person to vote without appearing at a
88 polling place on the day of an election?"

89 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS ASSEMBLY: That
90 the said amendment so proposed is approved and that it be presented
91 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 4, 2014.