



General Assembly

**House Joint
Resolution No. 28**

February Session, 2018

LCO No. 1624



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

**RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT TO PERMIT EARLY VOTING.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 Section 1. Section 1. That the following be proposed as an
2 amendment to the Constitution of the State, which, when approved
3 and adopted in the manner provided by the Constitution, shall, to all
4 intents and purposes, become a part thereof:

5 Section 7 of article sixth of the Constitution is amended to read as
6 follows:

7 Sec. 7. a. The general assembly may provide by law for voting in the
8 choice of any officer to be elected or upon any question to be voted on
9 at an election by qualified voters of the state who are unable to appear
10 at the polling place on the day of election because of absence from the
11 city or town of which they are inhabitants or because of sickness or
12 physical disability or because the tenets of their religion forbid secular
13 activity.

14 b. The general assembly may provide by law for voting in person in
15 the choice of any officer to be elected or upon any question to be voted
16 on at an election (1) by qualified voters of the state who do not appear
17 at the polling place on the day of election, (2) for a minimum of eight
18 hours on each day for not less than two days and not more than five
19 days during the fourteen days prior to such day of election, and (3) in
20 the city or town of which such qualified voters are inhabitants.

21 Section 9 of article third of the Constitution is amended to read as
22 follows:

23 Sec. 9. At all elections for members of the general assembly the
24 presiding officers in the several towns shall [receive the votes of the
25 electors, and] count and declare [them] the votes of the electors in open
26 meeting. The presiding officers shall make and certify duplicate lists of
27 the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each. One list
28 shall be delivered [within three days] to the town clerk, and [within
29 ten days after such meeting,] the other shall be delivered under seal to
30 the secretary of the state.

31 Section 4 of article fourth of the Constitution is amended to read as
32 follows:

33 Sec. 4. [At the meetings of the electors in the respective towns held
34 quadrennially as herein provided for the election of state officers, the
35 presiding officers shall receive the votes and shall count and declare
36 the same in the presence of the electors] The votes at the election of
37 state officers shall be counted and declared in open meeting by the
38 presiding officers in the several towns. The presiding officers shall
39 make and certify duplicate lists of the persons voted for, and of the
40 number of votes for each. One list shall be delivered [within three
41 days] to the town clerk, and [within ten days after such meeting,] the
42 other shall be delivered under seal to the secretary of the state. The
43 votes so delivered shall be counted, canvassed and declared by the
44 treasurer, secretary, and comptroller, within the month of November.
45 The vote for treasurer shall be counted, canvassed and declared by the
46 secretary and comptroller only; the vote for secretary shall be counted,

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

75 RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the
76 Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly
77 elected at the general election to be held on November 6, 2018, and
78 published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented
79 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 6, 2018,
80 whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the
81 amendments to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed

82 amendment to be used on the ballots at such election shall be "Shall the
83 Constitution of the State be amended to allow the General Assembly to
84 provide opportunities for early voting in person during the fourteen
85 days prior to the day of an election?"