

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 1437

H.P. 946

House of Representatives, April 3, 2025

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of  
Maine to Specify the Qualifications of Electors in State and Local  
Elections**

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Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.  
Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and  
Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BISHOP of Bucksport, MCINTYRE of Lowell,  
PAUL of Winterport, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, SMITH of Palermo, WHITE of Ellsworth,  
Senator: HARRINGTON of York.

1       **Constitutional amendment. Resolved:** Two thirds of each branch of the  
2 Legislature concurring, that the following amendment to the Constitution of Maine be  
3 proposed:

4       **Constitution, Art. II, §1** is amended to read:

5       **Section 1. Qualifications of electors; written ballot; military servicemen**  
6 **service members; students.** Only a citizen of the United States may vote in a state,  
7 county or municipal or other local election. Every citizen of the United States of the age  
8 of 18 years and upwards, excepting persons under guardianship for reasons of mental  
9 illness, having his or her residence established in this State, shall be an elector for Governor,  
10 Senators and Representatives, and county, local or municipal office in the city, town or  
11 plantation where his or her residence has been established, if he or she continues to reside  
12 in this State; and the elections shall be by written ballot. But persons in the military, naval  
13 or marine service of the United States, or this State, shall not be considered as having  
14 obtained such established residence by being stationed in any garrison, barrack or military  
15 place, in any city, town or plantation; nor shall the residence of a student at any seminary  
16 of learning entitle the student to the right of suffrage in the city, town or plantation where  
17 such seminary is established. No person, however, shall be deemed to have lost residence  
18 by reason of the person's absence from the state in the military service of the United States,  
19 or of this State.

20       **Indians.** Every Indian, residing on tribal reservations and otherwise qualified, shall be  
21 an elector in all county, state and national elections.

22       **Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective date.**  
23 **Resolved:** That the municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their  
24 respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding  
25 a statewide election, at a statewide election held in the month of November following the  
26 passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment proposed in this  
27 resolution by voting upon the following question:

28               "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to permit only citizens  
29               of the United States to vote in state, county or municipal or other local  
30               elections?"

31       The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question  
32 and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within the corresponding square  
33 below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and declared  
34 in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in  
35 the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review the  
36 returns. If it appears that a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of the amendment,  
37 the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay and the amendment becomes part of  
38 the Constitution of Maine on the date of the proclamation.

39       **Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Resolved:** That the Secretary of State  
40 shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of  
41 this resolution necessary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

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## **SUMMARY**

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to specify that only a person who is a citizen of the United States may vote in a state, county or municipal or other local election.