

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE - HUNDRETH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 539

S. P. 206

In Senate, January 19, 1961

Referred to Committee on State Government. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Lovell of York.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SIXTY-ONE

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**RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Changing the Tenure of Office of Sheriff to Four-Year Terms.**

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**Constitutional amendment. Resolved:** Two-thirds of each branch of the Legislature concurring, that the following amendment to the Constitution of this State be proposed:

**Constitution, Article IX, Section 10, amended.** The first paragraph of Section 10 of Article IX of the Constitution, as amended, is further amended to read as follows:

‘Sheriffs shall be elected by the people of their respective counties, by a plurality of the votes given in on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November, and shall hold their offices for ~~two~~ four years from the first day of January next after their election, unless sooner removed as hereinafter provided.’

**Form of question and date when amendment shall be voted upon. Resolved:** That the aldermen of cities, the selectmen of towns and the assessors of the several plantations of this State are hereby empowered and directed to notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet in the manner prescribed by the law for calling and holding biennial meetings of said inhabitants for the election of Senators and Representatives at the next general or special state-wide election to give in their votes upon the amendment proposed in the foregoing resolution, and the question shall be:

“Shall the Constitution, which now provides for a two-year term for sheriff, be amended by a resolution of the Legislature to a four-year term?”

And the inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations shall vote by ballot on said question, and shall indicate by a cross or check mark placed against the

words "Yes" or "No" their opinion of the same. The ballots shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the office of the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for Governor and Members of the Legislature, and the Governor and Council shall count the same, and if it shall appear that a majority of the inhabitants voting on the question are in favor of the amendment, the Governor shall forthwith make known the fact by his proclamation, and the amendment shall thereupon, as of the date of said proclamation, become a part of the Constitution.

**Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Resolved:** That the Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to the several cities, towns and plantations ballots and blank returns in conformity with the foregoing resolve, accompanied by a copy thereof.