

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1332

H.P. 960

House of Representatives, March 19, 2019

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of
Maine To Require State and Congressional Elections To Be Decided
by a Plurality of Votes Cast**

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 JOHANSEN of Monticello.
Cosponsored by Representatives: COSTAIN of Plymouth, DeVEAU of Caribou, PICKETT of
Dixfield, SKOLFIELD of Weld, Senator: ROSEN of Hancock.

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. IV, Pt. First, §4-A** is enacted to read:

5 **Section 4-A. Primary election.** A primary election for Representative must be
6 decided by a plurality of votes cast.

7 **Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. Second, §2-A** is enacted to read:

8 **Section 2-A. Primary election.** A primary election for Senator must be decided
9 by a plurality of votes cast.

10 **Constitution, Art. V, Pt. First, §2-A** is enacted to read:

11 **Section 2-A. Primary election.** A primary election for Governor must be
12 decided by a plurality of votes cast.

13 **Constitution, Art. IX, §26** is enacted to read:

14 **Section 26. Congressional elections.** A primary, general or special election for
15 United States Representative or United States Senator must be decided by a plurality of
16 votes cast.

17 **Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective date.**

18 **Resolved:** That the municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their
19 respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for
20 holding a statewide election, at a statewide election held in the month of November
21 following the passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment
22 proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

23 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to require that a
24 primary election for State Representative, State Senator or Governor be
25 decided by a plurality of votes cast and that a primary, general or special
26 election for United States Representative or United States Senator be
27 decided by a plurality of votes cast?"

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

