

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1372

H.P. 993

House of Representatives, March 21, 2019

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of
Maine To Ensure That Voting Rights Belong Only to Citizens in
Municipal or Other Local Elections**

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 WADSWORTH of Hiram.
Cosponsored by Representative: STANLEY of Medway.

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

20 **Indians.** Every Indian, residing on tribal reservations and otherwise qualified, shall
21 be 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
25 holding a statewide election, at a statewide election held in the month of November
26 following the passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment
27 proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

28 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to permit only
29 citizens of the United States to vote in 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
33 square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and
34 declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of
35 State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall
36 review the returns. If it appears that a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of the
37 amendment, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay and the amendment
38 becomes part of 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
41 of this resolution necessary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

SUMMARY

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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 municipal or other local election.