

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DECEMBER SPECIAL SESSION

E I G H T Y - S I X T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 35

H. P. 20

House of Representatives, Dec. 5, 1933

Referred to Committee on Judiciary. 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Lebel of Brunswick.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED
AND THIRTY-THREE

**RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Changing the
Date of the Biennial Election in the Years of National Elections.**

Constitutional amendment proposed to change the date of the biennial election in the years of national elections.

Resolved: That section 4 of Article II of the constitution and the 1st paragraph of Article XXIII of the constitution are hereby repealed and reenacted as section 4 of Article II of the constitution to read as follows:

‘Sec. 4. The governor, senators and representatives in the legislature shall be elected biennially **on the Tuesday next after the first Monday of November on the years of the national elections and on the second Monday of September every two years thereafter** and shall hold office for two years from the first Wednesday in January next succeeding their election. But citizens of the state absent therefrom in the military service of the United States or of this state, and not in the regular army of the United States, being otherwise qualified electors, shall be allowed to vote for governor, senators and representatives on the **date of the biennial election** in the manner herein provided. On the day of election a poll shall be opened at every place without this state where a regiment, battalion, battery,

company, or detachment of not less than twenty soldiers from the state of Maine, may be found or stationed, and every citizen of said state of the age of twenty-one years, in such military service, shall be entitled to vote as aforesaid; and he shall be considered as voting in the city, town, plantation and county in this state where he resided when he entered the service. The vote shall be taken by regiments when it can conveniently be done; when not so convenient, any detachment or part of a regiment, not less than twenty in number, and any battery or part thereof numbering twenty or more, shall be entitled to vote wherever they may be. The three ranking officers of such regiment, battalion, battery, company, or part of either, as the case may be, acting as such on the day of election, shall be supervisors of elections. If no officers, then three non-commissioned officers according to their seniority shall be such supervisors. If any officer or non-commissioned officer shall neglect or refuse to act, the next in rank shall take his place. In case there are no officers or non-commissioned officers present, or if they or either of them refuse to act, the electors present, not less than twenty, may choose, by written ballot enough of their own number, not exceeding three, to fill the vacancies, and the persons so chosen shall be supervisors of elections. All supervisors shall be first sworn to support the constitution of the United States and of this state, and faithfully and impartially to perform the duties of supervisors of elections. Each is authorized to administer the necessary oath to the others; and certificates thereof shall be annexed to the lists of votes by them to be made and returned into the office of the secretary of this state as hereinafter provided. The polls shall be opened and closed at such hours as the supervisors, or a majority of them, shall direct. Due notice and sufficient time shall be given for all voters in the regiment, battalion, battery, detachment, company, or part of either, as the case may be, to vote. Regimental and field officers shall be entitled to vote with their respective commands. When not in actual command, such officers, and also all general and staff officers, and all surgeons, assistant surgeons, and chaplains, shall be entitled to vote at any place where polls are opened. The supervisors of elections shall prepare a ballot box or other suitable receptacle for the ballots. Upon one side of every ballot shall be printed or written the name of the county, and also of the city, town or plantation of this state, in which is the residence of the person proposing to vote. Upon the other side shall be the name or names of the persons to be voted for, and the office or offices which he or they are intended to fill. And before receiving any vote, the supervisors, or a majority of them, must be satisfied of the age and citizenship of the person claiming to vote, and that he has in fact a residence in the county, city, town or plantation which is printed or written on the vote offered by him.

If his right to vote is challenged, they may require him to make true answers, upon oath, to all interrogatories touching his age, citizenship, residence, and right to vote, and shall hear any other evidence offered by him, or by those who challenge his right. They shall keep correct poll-lists of the names of all persons allowed to vote, and of their respective places of residence in this state, and also the number of the regiment and company or battery to which they belong; which lists shall be certified by them, or by a majority of them, to be correct, and that such residence is in accordance with the indorsement of the residence of each voter on his vote. They shall check the name of every person before he is allowed to vote, and the check mark shall be plainly made against his name on the poll-lists. They shall sort, count and publicly declare the votes at the head of their respective commands on the day of election, unless prevented by the public enemy, and in that case as soon thereafter as may be; and on the same day of said declaration they shall form a list of the persons voted for, with the number of votes for each person against his name, and the office which he was intended to fill, and shall sign and seal up such list and cause the same, together with the poll-lists aforesaid, to be delivered into the office of the secretary of state aforesaid, on or before the fifteenth day of ~~November~~ **December** biennially. The legislature of this state may pass any law additional to the foregoing provisions, if any shall, in practice, be found necessary in order more fully to carry into effect the purpose thereof.'

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 law for calling and holding biennial meetings of said inhabitants for the election of senators and representatives, on the second Monday in September following the passage of this resolve, to give in their votes upon the amendment proposed in the foregoing resolution, and the question shall be:

"Shall the constitution be amended as proposed by a resolution of the legislature providing for a change in the date of the biennial election from September to November in the years of national elections?"

And the inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations shall vote by ballot on said question, those in favor of the amendment voting "Yes" upon their ballots and those opposed to the amendment voting "No" upon their ballots, and 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.