

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 17

S. P. 34

In Senate, January 11, 1951.

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

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Allen of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-ONE

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

Constitutional amendment. Resolved: Two-thirds of each branch of the legislature concurring, that the following amendments to the constitution of this state be proposed:

Constitution, Article II, § 4, amended. The 1st and 2nd sentences of section 4 of Article II of the constitution, as amended by Article XXIII, are hereby further amended to read as follows:

'The election of ~~governor~~ senators and representatives shall be on the 2nd Monday of September biennially **and the election of governor shall be on the 2nd Monday of September every 4 years.** 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 2nd Monday of September biennially, in the manner herein provided; **and for governor, on the 2nd Monday of September every 4 years, in the manner herein provided.'**

Constitution, Article V, Part First, § 2, amended. Section 2 of Part First of Article V of the constitution, as amended by Article XXIII, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 2. The governor shall be elected by the qualified electors, and shall hold his office for ~~2~~ 4 years from the 1st Wednesday of January next following the election and shall not be eligible to succeed himself.'

Constitution, Article V, Part First, § 3, amended. The 1st and 2nd sentences of section 3, Part First, Article V of the constitution are hereby amended to read as follows:

'The meetings for election of governor **every 4 years** shall be notified, held and regulated, and votes shall be received, sorted, counted, declared and recorded, in the same manner as those for senators and representatives. They shall be sealed and returned into the secretary's office in the same manner, and at the same time **every 4 years** as those for senators.'

Constitution, Article XXIII, amended. The 1st paragraph of Article XXIII of the constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:

'The ~~governor~~ senators and representatives in the legislature shall be elected biennially, and hold office 2 years from the 1st Wednesday in January next succeeding their election; and the legislature, at the 1st session next after the adoption of this article, shall make all needful provisions by law concerning the tenure of office of all county officers, and concerning the annual or biennial reports of the state treasurer and other state officers and institutions; and shall make all such provisions by law as may be required in consequence of the change from annual to biennial elections, and from annual to biennial sessions of the legislature.'

Effective date. Resolved: That the amendments herein proposed, if adopted, shall determine the term of office of governor to be elected at the general election in September, 1954, as well as the terms of governors thereafter to be elected.

Form of question and date when amendments 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 at the next general or special state-wide election, to give in their votes upon the amendments 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 the change in the tenure of office of the governor to four-year terms?"

And the inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations shall vote by ballot on said question, those in favor of the amendments voting "Yes" upon their ballots and those opposed to the amendments 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 amendments, the governor shall forthwith make known the fact by his proclamation, and the amendments 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.