

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 40

S. P. 37

In Senate, January 15, 1953

Referred to the Committee on Taxation, sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Chase of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-THREE

RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Authorize the Legislature to Establish Classifications of Property for Uniform Assessment for Taxation.

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, Art. IX, Sections 7, 8 and 9, repealed and replaced. Sections 7, 8 and 9 of Article IX of the constitution are hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

‘Section 7. The legislature shall have and shall never suspend or surrender the power of taxation. The power to assess and collect taxes, when delegated by the legislature to agencies of state and to municipal subdivisions, shall be exercised only for the purposes and in accordance with standards established by the legislature. A general valuation of property shall be taken at least once in each ten years. For purposes of taxation, the legislature may establish different classifications of property and shall provide methods which shall be uniform throughout the state, either generally or within such classifications, for determining the just value of property as a basis for taxation at rates deemed equitable and in the public interest.’

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 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 be amended as proposed by a resolution of the legislature to authorize the legislature to establish classifications of property for the purposes of taxation and to provide uniform methods of assessments within such classifications?”

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.