

By: Representative Robinson (84th)

To: Constitution

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 37

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE  
2 MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890, TO CREATE A NEW SECTION TO  
3 REQUIRE A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN THE PROPOSED ANNEXED AREA  
4 OF A COUNTY BEFORE THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES OF A MUNICIPALITY OF  
5 THE COUNTY MAY ENLARGE THE CORPORATE BOUNDARIES OF THE  
6 MUNICIPALITY; TO PRESCRIBE THE PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCTING SUCH AN  
7 ELECTION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF  
9 MISSISSIPPI, That the following amendment to the Mississippi  
10 Constitution of 1890 is proposed to the qualified electors of the  
11 state:

12 Amend the Mississippi Constitution of 1890 by creating a new  
13 section to read as follows:

14 "Section \_\_\_\_ (1) If the governing authorities of any  
15 municipality desire to enlarge the boundaries thereof by adding  
16 adjacent unincorporated territory, the governing authorities of  
17 such municipality shall pass a resolution defining with certainty  
18 the territory proposed to be included in the corporate limits, and  
19 also defining the entire boundary as changed. The resolution  
20 shall describe in general terms the proposed improvements to be  
21 made in the annexed territory, the manner and extent of the  
22 improvements, and the approximate time within which the  
23 improvements are to be made. The resolution also shall contain a  
24 statement of the municipal or public services that such  
25 municipality proposes to render in the annexed territory.

26 (2) After the passage of the resolution, the board of  
27 supervisors of the county in which the territory proposed to be  
28 annexed is located shall hold a special election on the question  
29 of the proposed annexation. The election shall be held within



30 sixty (60) days after passage of the municipal resolution. Notice  
31 of the election shall be published in a newspaper having a general  
32 circulation in the territory of the county proposed to be annexed  
33 once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks before the election,  
34 and the first publication shall be made not less than twenty-one  
35 (21) days before the election. The election shall be held in the  
36 same manner as are other county elections. Only those electors  
37 residing in the proposed annexed area may vote in the election. A  
38 majority of those voting in the election must vote in favor of the  
39 proposed annexation in order for the annexation to be approved.  
40 The results of the election shall be certified by the election  
41 commissioners of the county and shall be the final decision on the  
42 issue of annexation. If there are no qualified electors residing  
43 in the area proposed to be annexed, then no election shall take  
44 place and the annexation proceedings shall take place in  
45 accordance with the laws and statutes that were in effect  
46 immediately before the adoption of this amendment.

47 (3) No election may be held on the question of annexation in  
48 a county or municipality more often than once each three (3)  
49 years.

50 (4) The provisions of this section shall be self-executing  
51 and shall govern the manner and procedure for authorizing  
52 annexation of additional territory by a municipality  
53 notwithstanding the provisions of any general law or statute to  
54 the contrary.

55 (5) The provisions of this section shall be applicable to  
56 any municipal annexation proceedings begun on or after January 1,  
57 2003, as well as to such proceedings that began before such date  
58 which may be still pending in any judicial proceeding or appeal of  
59 such proceeding."

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this proposed amendment shall be  
61 submitted by the Secretary of State to the qualified electors at  
62 an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday



63 of November of 2002, as provided by Section 273 of the  
64 Constitution and by general law.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of this proposed  
66 amendment for the ballot shall read as follows: "This proposed  
67 constitutional amendment provides that before the governing  
68 authorities of a municipality may enlarge the corporate limits of  
69 the municipality, a special election must be held approving the  
70 annexation in the territory proposed to be annexed. The amendment  
71 also prescribes the procedure for conducting the election."

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Attorney General of the  
73 State of Mississippi shall submit this resolution, immediately  
74 upon adoption by the Legislature, to the Attorney General of the  
75 United States or to the United States District Court for the  
76 District of Columbia, in accordance with the provisions of the  
77 Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.

