

By: Representatives West, Holloway,
Middleton

To: Constitution

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 51

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 241
2 AND SECTION 253, MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890, TO PROVIDE THAT
3 ANY PERSON WHO HAS LOST HIS RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE BY REASON OF HAVING
4 BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME AND SENTENCED TO A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT
5 SHALL HAVE HIS RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE RESTORED UPON HIS RELEASE FROM
6 PRISON, EVEN IF HE WAS RELEASED ON PAROLE.

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

11 I.

12 Amend Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to read
13 as follows:

14 "Section 241. Every inhabitant of this state, except idiots
15 and insane persons, who is a citizen of the United States of
16 America, eighteen (18) years old and upward, who has been a
17 resident of this state for one (1) year, and for one (1) year in
18 the county in which he offers to vote, and for six (6) months in
19 the election precinct or in the incorporated city or town in which
20 he offers to vote, and who is duly registered as provided in this
21 article, and who has never been convicted and sentenced to a term
22 of imprisonment for murder, rape, bribery, theft, arson, obtaining
23 money or goods under false pretense, perjury, forgery,
24 embezzlement or bigamy, is declared to be a qualified elector,
25 except that he shall be qualified to vote for President and Vice
26 President of the United States if he meets the requirements
27 established by Congress therefor and is otherwise a qualified
28 elector."

29 II.



30 Amend Section 253, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to read
31 as follows:

32 "Section 253. Any person who has lost his right of suffrage
33 by reason of having been convicted of a crime and sentenced to a
34 term of imprisonment shall have his right of suffrage restored
35 upon his release from prison, even if he was released on parole."

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That these proposed amendments shall
37 be submitted by the Secretary of State to the qualified electors
38 at an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first
39 Monday of November 2003, as provided by Section 273 of the
40 Constitution and by general law, with the amendments in this
41 resolution being voted on as one (1) amendment since the proposed
42 amendments pertain to one (1) subject.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of this proposed
44 amendment for the ballot shall read as follows: "This proposed
45 constitutional amendment provides that any person who has lost his
46 right of suffrage by reason of having been convicted of a crime
47 and sentenced to a term of imprisonment shall have his right of
48 suffrage restored upon his release from prison, even if he was
49 released on parole."

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Attorney General of the
51 State of Mississippi shall submit this resolution, immediately
52 upon adoption by the Legislature, to the Attorney General of the
53 United States or to the United States District Court for the
54 District of Columbia, in accordance with the provisions of the
55 Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.

