

By: Representatives Anderson, Bailey, Clark,
Young

To: Constitution;
Apportionment and Elections

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 44

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION
2 241, MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890, TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON
3 WHO IS OTHERWISE A QUALIFIED ELECTOR AND HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF
4 BRIBERY, THEFT, ARSON, OBTAINING MONEY OR GOODS UNDER FALSE
5 PRETENSE, PERJURY, FORGERY, EMBEZZLEMENT OR BIGAMY SHALL HAVE HIS
6 OR HER RIGHT TO VOTE SUSPENDED UPON CONVICTION AND SHALL HAVE HIS
7 OR HER RIGHT TO VOTE RESTORED ONCE HE OR SHE HAS SATISFIED ALL OF
8 THE SENTENCING REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONVICTION; AND PROPOSING THE
9 REPEAL OF SECTION 253, MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890, WHICH
10 PROVIDES THAT THE LEGISLATURE MAY, BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF BOTH
11 HOUSES, OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED, RESTORE THE RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE TO
12 ANY PERSON DISQUALIFIED BY REASON OF CRIME.

13 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF
14 MISSISSIPPI, That the following amendments to the Mississippi
15 Constitution of 1890 are proposed to the qualified electors of the
16 state:

17 I.

18 Amend Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to read
19 as follows:

20 "Section 241. (1) Every inhabitant of this state, except
21 idiots and insane persons, shall be a qualified elector if he or
22 she is:



(a) * * * A citizen of the United States of America * * *;

(b) Eighteen (18) years old and upward * * *;

(c) * * * A resident of this state for one (1) year, and for one (1) year in the county in which he or she offers to vote, and for six (6) months in the election precinct or in the incorporated city or town in which he or she offers to vote * * *;
and

(d) * * * Duly registered as provided in this article * * *.

(2) A person who is otherwise a qualified elector under the provisions of subsection (1) and has been convicted of bribery, theft, arson, obtaining money or goods under false pretense, perjury, forgery, embezzlement or bigamy shall have his or her right to vote suspended upon conviction and shall have his or her right to vote restored once he or she has satisfied all of the sentencing requirements of the conviction including parole but not probation.

(3) * * * A person shall be qualified to vote for President and Vice President of the United States if he or she meets the requirements established by Congress therefor and is otherwise a qualified elector."

II.

Amend the Mississippi Constitution of 1890 by repealing Section 253, which reads as follows:



48 "Section 253. The Legislature may, by a two-thirds vote of
49 both houses, of all members elected, restore the right of suffrage
50 to any person disqualified by reason of crime; but the reasons
51 therefor shall be spread upon the journals, and the vote shall be
52 by yeas and nays."

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That these proposed amendments shall
54 be submitted by the Secretary of State to the qualified electors
55 at an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first
56 Monday of November 2019, as provided by Section 273 of the
57 Constitution and by general law, with the amendments in this
58 resolution being voted on as one (1) amendment since the proposed
59 amendments pertain to one (1) subject.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of this proposed
61 amendment for the ballot shall read as follows: "This proposed
62 constitutional amendment provides that a person who is otherwise a
63 qualified elector and has been convicted of murder, rape, bribery,
64 theft, arson, obtaining money or goods under false pretense,
65 perjury, forgery, embezzlement or bigamy shall have his or her
66 right to vote suspended upon conviction and shall have his or her
67 right to vote restored once he or she has satisfied all of the
68 sentencing requirements of the conviction."

