

By: Representatives McCray, Paden, Stamps

To: Constitution

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE
2 MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890 TO PROVIDE THAT AN EARLY VOTING
3 PERIOD SHALL BE PROVIDED TEN DAYS BEFORE THE DATE OF EACH PRIMARY,
4 GENERAL, RUNOFF, SPECIAL AND MUNICIPAL ELECTION FOR PUBLIC OFFICE
5 AND CONTINUE UNTIL 5:00 P.M. ON THE SATURDAY PRECEDING THE
6 ELECTION DAY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

13 "Section ____ (1) For purposes of this section, these words
14 shall have the following meanings, unless their context clearly
15 suggests otherwise:

16 (a) "Election" means the period of time that is
17 available for casting a final vote. References to the time of an
18 election or the duration of the election shall encompass, unless
19 the context clearly indicates otherwise, the ten-day period that
20 has been designed for early voting.



21 (b) "Polling place" or "voting precinct" means any
22 place that a qualified elector votes during the early voting
23 period and on the actual election day.

24 (2) During any primary, general, runoff, special or
25 municipal election for public office, any qualified elector may
26 vote:

27 (a) In the elector's assigned precinct on election day;

28 (b) In the office of the registrar in which the elector
29 is registered to vote during the times established in subsection
30 (3) of this section for early voting; or

31 (c) By a mail-in absentee ballot.

32 (3) (a) The early voting period shall begin ten (10) days
33 before the date of each primary, general, runoff, special and
34 municipal election for public office and continue until 5:00 p.m.
35 on the Saturday preceding the election day. If the date
36 prescribed for beginning the early voting period falls on a Sunday
37 or state holiday, the early voting period shall begin on the next
38 regular business day.

39 (b) Early voting shall be conducted in the office of
40 the appropriate registrar during regular business hours. If the
41 office space of the registrar is insufficient or inconvenient to
42 accommodate early voting, the registrar may provide an alternate
43 location to conduct early voting, and in such case, adequate
44 notice shall be posted at the registrar's office that informs the
45 public of the location where early voting is being conducted. The



46 registrar may conduct early voting at an additional secure polling
47 place outside his or her office. The appropriate registrar shall
48 provide at least one (1) additional early voting location for
49 every thirty thousand (30,000) registered county voters and at
50 least one (1) additional early voting location for every ten
51 thousand (10,000) registered municipal voters according to the
52 latest federal decennial census. During the last full week
53 preceding an election, the office of the appropriate registrar may
54 extend the office hours to accommodate early voters. All
55 registrar offices shall remain open from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
56 for the two (2) Saturdays immediately preceding each election.

57 (c) Notice of the early voting hours shall be given by
58 the officials in charge of the election not less than eight (8)
59 days before the day early voting begins. The notice shall be
60 posted in three (3) public places within the county or
61 municipality, with one (1) place being the county courthouse in a
62 county election or city hall in a municipal election.

63 (4) (a) A qualified elector who desires to vote during the
64 early voting period shall appear at the office of the appropriate
65 registrar in the county or municipality in which the elector is
66 registered to vote and shall present an acceptable form of photo
67 identification. Upon verification of the proper location and
68 identity, the elector shall sign the appropriate receipt book and
69 cast his or her vote in the same manner that the vote would be
70 cast on the day of the election. Except as otherwise provided in



71 subsections (1) through (6) of this section, the election laws
72 that govern the procedures for a person who appears to vote on the
73 day of an election shall apply when a person appears to vote
74 during the early voting period.

75 (b) All votes cast during the early voting period shall
76 be final. Early voting ballots shall be saved using a system that
77 allows the ballots to be examined by a candidate and for election
78 certification and audit purposes.

79 (c) The votes cast during the early voting period shall
80 be announced simultaneously with all other votes cast on election
81 day.

82 (d) Qualified electors voting during the early voting
83 period shall be entitled to the same voting assistance that they
84 would be entitled to on the actual election day.

85 (5) Each political party, candidate or any representative of
86 a political party or candidate pursuant to Section 23-15-577 shall
87 have the right to be present at the office of the appropriate
88 registrar when it is open for early voting and to challenge the
89 qualifications of any person offering to vote in the same manner
90 as provided by law for challenging qualifications at the polling
91 place on election day.

92 (6) The Secretary of State shall promulgate rules and
93 regulations necessary to effectuate early voting, including
94 measures to inform the public about the availability of early
95 voting."



96 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this proposed amendment shall be
97 submitted by the Secretary of State to the qualified electors at
98 an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday
99 of November 2022, as provided by Section 273 of the Constitution
100 and by general law.

101 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of this proposed
102 amendment for the ballot shall read as follows: "This proposed
103 constitutional amendment provides that an early voting period
104 shall be provided ten (10) days before the date of each primary,
105 general, runoff, special and municipal election for public office
106 and continue until 5:00 p.m. on the Saturday preceding the
107 election day."

