

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 511

1       A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTIONS  
2 241 AND 253 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890, TO RESTORE  
3 VOTING RIGHTS TO PERSONS CONVICTED OF NONVIOLENT FELONIES UNDER  
4 CERTAIN CONDITIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9       Amend Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to read  
10 as follows:

11       Section 241. (1) Every inhabitant of this state, except  
12 idiots and insane persons, who is a citizen of the United States  
13 of America, eighteen (18) years old and upward, who has been a  
14 resident of this state for one (1) year, and for one (1) year in  
15 the county in which he or she offers to vote, and for six (6)  
16 months in the election precinct or in the incorporated city or  
17 town in which he or she offers to vote, and who is duly registered  
18 as provided in this article, and who has never been convicted of  
19 murder, rape, bribery, theft, arson, obtaining money or goods

20 under false pretense, perjury, forgery, embezzlement or bigamy, is  
21 declared to be a qualified elector, except that he or she shall be  
22 qualified to vote for President and Vice President of the United  
23 States if he or she meets the requirements established by Congress  
24 therefor and is otherwise a qualified elector. Any person  
25 convicted of a nonviolent felony under the laws of this state, or  
26 any other jurisdiction recognized by this state, shall have their  
27 right to vote restored, via procedures established by the  
28 Legislature, upon the satisfaction of the following conditions:

29                   (a) The individual has fully served all terms of their  
30 sentence, including any term of incarceration, probation, parole  
31 or post-release supervision;  
32                   (b) All court-ordered fines, fees, and restitution  
33 associated with the conviction have been satisfied; and  
34                   (c) The individual has demonstrated good behavior by  
35 remaining free from any new criminal convictions for a continuous  
36 period of seven (7) years following the completion of their  
37 sentence.

38                   (2) For the purposes of this section, "nonviolent felony"  
39 shall mean any felony that does not involve the use or threat of  
40 physical force or violence against another person or result in  
41 significant harm to property or individuals, as prescribed by law.

42                   Amend Section 253, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to read  
43 as follows:



44           Section 253. In any case where suffrage is not restored  
45   according to Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, the  
46   Legislature may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of both houses, of all  
47   members elected, restore the right of suffrage to any person  
48   disqualified by reason of crime; but the reasons therefor shall be  
49   spread upon the journals, and the vote shall be by yeas and nays.

50           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the amendments in this  
51   resolution be submitted by the Secretary of State to the qualified  
52   electors at an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the  
53   first Monday of November 2025, as provided by Section 273 of the  
54   Constitution and by general law.

55           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of the amendment  
56   for the ballot shall read as follows: "The right to vote is a  
57   fundamental principle of democracy. The rehabilitation and  
58   reintegration of individuals who have served their sentences are  
59   vital to promoting civic engagement and reducing recidivism. The  
60   current language of the Mississippi Constitution prohibits all  
61   citizens of Mississippi who have been convicted of a felony from  
62   voting in local and state elections. By amending the  
63   Constitution's language as proposed, individuals convicted of  
64   nonviolent felonies would be permitted to vote upon the completion  
65   of their sentence, payment of outstanding fines, and remaining  
66   free from any new criminal convictions for a continuous period of  
67   seven (7) years following completion of their sentences."

