

THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

As Changed at the Last Session of the Legislature.

THE QUESTION ON WHICH THE PEOPLE WILL VOTE AT THE COMING ELECTION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact: Section 1. That chapter 215, public laws of 1899, entitled "An Act to amend the Constitution of North Carolina," be amended so as to make said act read as follows:

"That article 6 of the constitution of North Carolina, be, and the same is hereby abrogated, and in lieu thereof shall be substituted the following article of said constitution as an entire and indivisible plan of suffrage."

ARTICLE VI.

Suffrage and Eligibility to Office. Sec. 1. Every male person born in the United States, and every male person who has been naturalized, twenty-one years of age, and possessing the qualifications set out in this article, shall be entitled to vote at any election by the people in the state, except as herein otherwise provided.

Sec. 2. He shall have resided in the State of North Carolina for two years, in the county six months, and in the precinct, ward or other election district in which he offers to vote, four months next preceding the election; Provided, that removal from one precinct, ward or other election district to another in the same county, shall not operate to deprive any person of the right to vote in the precinct, ward or other election district from which he has removed until four months after such removal. No person who has been convicted, or who has confessed his guilt in open court, upon indictment of any crime, the punishment of which now is, or may hereafter be, imprisonment in the State's prison, shall be permitted to vote unless the said person shall be first restored to citizenship in the manner prescribed by law.

Sec. 3. Every person offering to vote shall be at the time a legally registered voter as herein prescribed and in the manner hereafter provided by law, and the General Assembly of North Carolina shall enact general registration laws to carry into effect the provisions of this article.

Sec. 4. Every person presenting himself for registration shall be able to read and write any section of the constitution in the English language; and, before he shall be entitled to vote, he shall have paid on or before the first day of May, of the year in which he proposes to vote, his poll tax for the previous year as prescribed by article 5, section 1, of the constitution. But no male person who was, on January 1, 1867, or at any time prior thereto, entitled to vote under the laws of any State in the United States wherein he then resided, and no lineal descendant of any such person shall be denied the right to register and vote at any election in this state by reason of his failure to possess the educational qualification herein prescribed; Provided, he shall have registered in accordance with the terms of this section prior to December 1, 1906.

The general assembly shall provide for the registration of all persons entitled to vote without the educational qualifications herein prescribed, and shall, on or before November 1, 1906, provide for the making of a permanent record of such registration, and all persons so registered, shall forever thereafter have the right to vote in all elections by the people in this state, unless disqualified under section 2 of this article; Provided, such person shall have paid his poll tax as above required.

Sec. 5. That this amendment to the constitution is presented and adopted as one indivisible plan for the regulation of the suffrage, with the intent and purpose to so connect the different parts, and to make them so dependent upon each other, that the whole shall stand or fall together.

Sec. 6. All elections by the people shall be by ballot, and all elections by the general assembly shall be viva voce.

Sec. 7. Every voter in North Carolina, except as in this article disqualified, shall be eligible to office, but before entering upon the duties of the office he shall take and subscribe the following oath: "I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm), that I will support and maintain the constitution and laws of the United States and the constitution and laws of North Carolina, not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as _____, so help me God."

Sec. 8. The following classes of persons shall be disqualified for office: First, all persons who shall deny the being of Almighty God. Second, all persons who shall have been convicted, or confessed their guilt on indictment pending, and whether sentenced or not, or under judgment suspended, of any treason or felony, or of any other crime for which the punishment may be imprisonment in the penitentiary, since becoming citizens of the United States, or of corruption or malpractice in office; unless such person shall be restored to the rights of citizenship in a manner prescribed by law.

Sec. 9. That this amendment to the constitution shall go into effect on the first day of July, 1902, if a majority of the votes cast at the next general election shall be cast in favor of this suffrage amendment.

Sec. 10. This amendment to the con-

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stitution shall be submitted at the next general election to the qualified voters of the state in the same manner and under the same rules and regulations as is provided in the law regulating general elections in this state, and at said election those persons desiring to vote for such amendment shall cast a written or printed ballot with the words "For Suffrage Amendment" thereon; and those with a contrary opinion shall cast a written or printed ballot with the words "Against Suffrage Amendment" thereon.

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