

## Amendment Would Allow Issuance On Bonds On Vote Of Majority

On Tuesday, November 2, the people of North Carolina will vote: ( ) FOR determining results of special elections by majority votes; or ( ) AGAINST determining results of special elections by majority votes.

**Present Voting Requirement**—Article XII, Section 7 of the North Carolina Constitution provides that: "No county, city, town, or other municipal corporation shall contract any debt, pledge its faith or loan its credit, nor shall any tax be levied or collected by any officers of the same except for the necessary expenses thereof, unless by a vote of the majority of the qualified voters therein."

**The Proposed Change in Voting Requirement**—For the words in the last clause of the foregoing provision — "unless by a vote of the majority of the qualified voters therein" the proposed amendment would substitute the following words — "unless approved by a majority of those who shall vote thereon in any election held for such purpose."

To illustrate the meaning of this proposed change: Under the present voting requirement, if 100 voters are registered ("qualified" voters are held to be "registered" voters) 501 votes must be cast for the proposition voted on in order to vote it

in. If 500 votes are cast for and one against it, the proposition is voted out, because 500 votes are not a "majority of the qualified voters."

Under the proposed voting requirement, if 1000 voters are registered and 501 vote — 251 for and 250 against it, the proposition is voted in, because 251 are a majority of those voting. Similarly, if only 100 of the 1000 registered vote, and 51 are for and 49 against it, the proposition is voted in, because 51 are a majority of those voting.

**Issues Involved in the Change** — It is obviously more difficult to levy a tax or incur a debt under the present voting requirement than under the proposed voting requirement. Or, to put it another way, it is obviously more difficult for people to get what they want through a tax levy or a bond issue under the present than under the proposed voting requirement. In still other words, the present voting requirement makes it easier for people to keep down debts and taxes, while the proposed voting requirement makes it easier for people to get the services they want. It is for the voters to say which is the wiser policy and this policy will be decided on Tuesday, November 2, by a majority of those voting rather than by a majority of those registered.

**Reasons cited for and against the change** follow the line of cleavage outlined in the foregoing paragraph. One official wrote in opposition to the change: "My observation has been that in elections called for approval of the issuance of bonds, we have a very small registration and if the election is carried by only a majority of those who vote, then we have a bond issue authorized and saddled upon the tax paying unit by only a small proportion of the people. I think the present arrangement is better and fairer. If a majority of the people do not want bonds issued, then I think a minority should not be permitted to authorize it." Another writes: "I do not think it would be wise to change the voting requirement in elections on necessary expenses. There are so many pressure groups today just waiting for an opportunity to further some pet project and in most cases the pressure groups are composed of people who do not own property, and therefore, would not have to bear the additional tax burden." Another writes: "I think that we should use every effort possible to hold down our bonded indebtedness; therefore my thought is that all bond elections should require registration and in order to carry the bond election."

**Officials favoring the change** write: "Hot primaries increase registration. Special elections bring out a small percentage of the vote. Any proposal starts out with two strikes against it." "Voters may register under the present system, stay away from the polls through forgetfulness, design, bad weather, sickness, and the like, and their absence from the polls counts as decisively against a proposal as if they had taken the time and trouble to cast their votes against it." "Under the present system a minority can very easily block a measure by registering and failing to show up on election day. For example, I know of an instance where a registrar in an election to provide a supplement to teachers' salaries was personally opposed to the supplement, and he took his registration book to a baseball game, where he registered almost everyone in sight. These citizens failed to show up on election day, and their failure to do so counted as a vote against the supplement. It would seem to me that the more Democratic way is the vote of the majority who actually appear at the polls." "Most of the representative citizens in a certain area favored a local movement for the betterment of schools, even though, for a great many of them, it meant additional tax. There was a small minority group in opposition to the movement that succeeded in registering a sufficient number of people that did not vote in the election to defeat the movement; although the election carried by five or six to one. This is a specific case of where the old law stood in the way of the majority of the people." Another official writes: "I favor changing the laws governing special elections on necessary expenses and also on special school district matters from a vote of a majority of the qualified voters, to a majority of those who shall vote thereon." Recently, we had a very close school district election upon the question of enlargement of a Local Tax School District to include an outlying district of considerable size. Of course, under the law, the registrar is entitled to go from house to house and register any qualified voter at any time during the period the books are open for registration. Also, the registrar is entitled to receive three cents a name for each registrant placed on the books during a new registration. These two facts generally make for a large registration, particularly if the registrar happens to oppose the proposition under consideration. In the instant

## Command & Staff Work To Be Given At Bragg

Qualified officers of the civilian components of the Army will be given an opportunity to participate in a course of instruction at the Command and Staff level to be initiated on a local basis this winter in sixteen locations over the nation. General Jacob L. Devers, Chief, Army Field Forces, announced today.

This "Special Course, Command Staff" is based on resident courses at the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and is designed to further the military education of officers of the Organized Reserve Corps and the National Guard who cannot spare time from their civilian pursuits to attend the resident course at Fort Leavenworth. The announcement emphasized that the Special Course is not equivalent of the resident courses but when supplemented by Army Extension Courses provides a means of maintaining a high state of training. The entire course will consist of three two-week phases approximately one year apart. The first phase will be conducted this year on a trial basis to determine the practicability of similar instruction based on courses in other Service

**Schools.** Instructors will be obtained from the Regular Army, the Organized Reserve and the National Guard and they will receive a short course of training at Fort Leavenworth.

Location and schedule of sessions of the first phase of the Special Course, Command and Staff, include: Third Army — Birmingham, Ala., 3-17 October; Jacksonville, Fla., 3-17 October; and Fort Bragg 10-24 October.

Full details may be secured at office of 325th Composite group, in the basement at City Hall.

Since the Economic Cooperation Administration began functioning last April, it has authorized dairy products purchases totaling nearly 49 million dollars.

The number of milk cows continued to decline through the first half of 1948.

## By Way Of Mention

Lois Beattie

Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Hope and Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Hope were recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Hope of Sharon.

Mrs. Elbert Payne had as her guest Sunday her sister, Mrs. Roy Thomas and Mr. Thomas and daughter, Lillian Ann, of Kannapolis.

Miss Ann Costner spent the weekend with relatives in Cherryville.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Walker had as their guests Sunday Mrs. J. V. Tarlton and children and Mr. Sam Walker of Gastonia.

Mrs. Elbert Payne had as her guests Sunday Rev. and Mrs. Earl Armstrong and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Armstrong all of Gastonia.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Lee Blanton had as their guests Sunday evening Mrs. Miller Lovelace and children of Crouse, Mr. L. V. Blanton of Boiling Springs.

## WITHOUT WARNING.....

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The firm manufactures 60, 70 and 80-count combed yarn, employs 125 persons who are paid approximately \$4,500 weekly.

It is another of the valuable industries which make Kings Mountain a prosperous Piedmont North Carolina city.

This is the fourteenth of a series of advertisements presented by the First National Bank, giving a synopsis of the history of Kings Mountain industrial firms. The bank is happy to number this firm among its customers. When in need of banking service, visit the First National—no account too large or too small to handle to your satisfaction.

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