

CACR 4 – AS INTRODUCED

2015 SESSION

15-0171
06/03

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION **4**

RELATING TO: the right to vote.

PROVIDING THAT: 17-year olds who will be eligible to vote in the general election be permitted to vote in that election's primary election.

SPONSORS: Rep. Notter, Hills 21; Rep. LeBrun, Hills 32; Rep. Moore, Hills 21; Rep. Baldasaro, Rock 5; Rep. Marston, Hills 19

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This constitutional amendment concurrent resolution provides that 17-year olds who will be eligible to vote in the general election may vote in that election's primary election.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through~~].
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Fifteen

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

RELATING TO: the right to vote.

PROVIDING THAT: 17-year olds who will be eligible to vote in the general election be permitted to vote in that election's primary election.

Be it Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, that the Constitution of New Hampshire be amended as follows:

1 I. That article 11 of the first part of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

2 [Art.] 11. [Elections and Elective Franchises.] All elections are to be free, and every inhabitant of
3 the State of 18 years of age and upwards shall have an equal right to vote in any election. **Every**
4 ***inhabitant of the State of 17 years of age who will reach the age of 18 years prior to the***
5 ***general election shall have an equal right to vote in the primary election for that election.***

6 Every person shall be considered an inhabitant for the purposes of voting in the town, ward, or
7 unincorporated place where he has his domicile. No person shall have the right to vote under the
8 Constitution of this State who has been convicted of treason, bribery, or any willful violation of the
9 election laws of this State or of the United States; but the Supreme Court may, on notice to the
10 Attorney General, restore the privilege to vote to any person who may have forfeited it by conviction
11 of such offenses. The General Court shall provide by law for voting by qualified voters who at the
12 time of the biennial or State elections, or of the primary elections therefor, or of city elections, or of
13 town elections by official ballot, are absent from the city or town of which they are inhabitants, or
14 who by reason of physical disability are unable to vote in person, in the choice of any officer or
15 officers to be elected or upon any question submitted at such election. Voting registration and
16 polling places shall be easily accessible to all persons including disabled and elderly persons who are
17 otherwise qualified to vote in the choice of any officer or officers to be elected or upon any question
18 submitted at such election. The right to vote shall not be denied to any person because of the
19 nonpayment of any tax. Every inhabitant of the State, having the proper qualifications, has equal
20 right to be elected into office.

21 II. That the above amendment proposed to the constitution be submitted to the qualified
22 voters of the state at the state general election to be held in November, 2016.

23 III. That the selectmen of all towns, cities, wards and places in the state are directed to
24 insert in their warrants for the said 2016 election an article to the following effect: To decide
25 whether the amendments of the constitution proposed by the 2015 session of the general court shall
26 be approved.

27 IV. That the wording of the question put to the qualified voters shall be:

CACR 4 – AS INTRODUCED
- Page 2 -

1 “Are you in favor of amending Article 11 of the first part of the constitution to read as follows:

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3 the State of 18 years of age and upwards shall have an equal right to vote in any election. Every
4 inhabitant of the State of 17 years of age who will reach the age of 18 years prior to the general
5 election shall have an equal right to vote in the primary election for that election. Every person shall
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12 State elections, or of the primary elections therefor, or of city elections, or of town elections by official
13 ballot, are absent from the city or town of which they are inhabitants, or who by reason of physical
14 disability are unable to vote in person, in the choice of any officer or officers to be elected or upon any
15 question submitted at such election. Voting registration and polling places shall be easily accessible
16 to all persons including disabled and elderly persons who are otherwise qualified to vote in the choice
17 of any officer or officers to be elected or upon any question submitted at such election. The right to
18 vote shall not be denied to any person because of the nonpayment of any tax. Every inhabitant of the
19 State, having the proper qualifications, has equal right to be elected into office.

20 V. That the secretary of state shall print the question to be submitted on a separate ballot or
21 on the same ballot with other constitutional questions. The ballot containing the question shall
22 include 2 squares next to the question allowing the voter to vote “Yes” or “No.” If no cross is made in
23 either of the squares, the ballot shall not be counted on the question. The outside of the ballot shall
24 be the same as the regular official ballot except that the words “Questions Relating to Constitutional
25 Amendments proposed by the 2015 General Court” shall be printed in bold type at the top of the
26 ballot.

27 VI. That if the proposed amendment is approved by 2/3 of those voting on the amendment, it
28 becomes effective when the governor proclaims its adoption.