

# The True Democrat.

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St. Francisville, West Feliciana Parish La., Saturday, September 21, 1912.

No. 34

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

### ACT NO. 24.

House Bill No. 61. By Mr. Edwards.

#### JOINT RESOLUTION

Providing an amendment to Section 5 of Article 197 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana, relative to registration of voters.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, two-thirds (2-3) of the members elected to each House concurring, that Section 5 of Article 197 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana be so amended as to read as follows:

Section 5. No male person who was on January 1st, 1867, or at any date prior thereto, entitled to vote under the Constitution or Statutes of any State of the United States, wherein he then resided, and no son or grandson of any such person, not less than 21 years of age on the 1st day of May 1912, and no male person of foreign birth, who was naturalized prior to the 1st day of January, 1898, shall be denied the right to register and vote in this State by reason of his failure to possess the educational or property qualifications prescribed by this Constitution, provided he shall have resided in this State for five years next preceding the date at which he shall apply for registration and shall have registered in accordance with the terms of this Article prior to September 1st, 1913, and no person shall be entitled to register under this Section after said date.

Every person claiming the benefit of this Section shall make application to the proper registration officer or his deputy for registration, and he shall make oath before such registration officer or his deputy in the form following:

I am a citizen of the United States and of this State, over the age of twenty-one years; I have resided in this State for five years next preceding this date. I was on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ entitled to vote under the Constitution or Statutes of the State of \_\_\_\_\_ wherein I then resided, (or I am the son or grandson of \_\_\_\_\_ who was, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ entitled to vote under the Constitution or Statutes of the State of \_\_\_\_\_ wherein he then resided) and I desire to avail myself of the privileges conferred by Section 5 of Article 197 of the Constitution of this State.

Certificates of registration shall be given to persons registering on durable paper, and consecutively marked on the permanent register. A separate registration of voters applying under this Section shall be made by the registration officer of every Parish, for this purpose the registration officer of every Parish shall keep his office open daily, Sundays and legal holidays excepted, until August 31st, 1913, inclusive, from 8 o'clock A. M. until 1 o'clock P. M. and from 2 o'clock P. M. until 6 o'clock P. M.

The registration of voters under this Section shall close on the 31st day of August, 1913, and immediately thereafter the registration officer of every Parish shall make a sworn copy in duplicate of the list of persons registered under this Section, showing, in detail, whether the applicant registered as a voter of 1867, or prior thereto, or as a son of such voter or as the grandson of such voter, and deposit one of said duplicates in the office of the Secretary of State, to be by him recorded and preserved, as a part of the permanent record of his office, and the other of said duplicates shall be by him filed in the office of the Clerk of the District Court of the Parish, and, in the Parish of Orleans in the office of the Recorder of Mortgages there to remain a permanent record; provided, that, upon the permanent register of all persons registered under this Section, the registration officer shall enter in the top of column the age and color of the applicant, and under the head of remarks all distinguishing physical characteristics of the applicant, such as height, size, color of hair and eyes, etc.

Persons whose names appear on the registration list shall be admitted to register for all the elections in this State without possessing the educational or property qualifications prescribed by this Constitution, unless otherwise disqualified, and all

persons who do not by personal application claim exemption from the provisions of Section 3 and 4 of this Article before September 1st, 1913, shall be forever denied the right to do so.

The names of the persons registering under and claiming the benefits of this Section shall be entered in a well-bound book, to be provided by each Parish for that purpose, and shall be known as the permanent register. Immediately on closing the registration under this Section, on August 31, 1913, it shall be the duty of the registration officer or his deputy in the different Parishes throughout the State, to make a sworn statement, in writing, of the number of voters, both white and colored, with the number of each, who have registered, and whose names appear on said permanent register herein provided for, and such sworn statement shall be published in the official journal or other newspaper published in the Parish in the next issue appearing after said date, the cost of the same to be paid by the Parish. Any registration officer violating the provisions of this Section or failing to comply with the provisions hereof, or shall make a false or incorrect statement of the number of voters registered under this Section, shall be deemed guilty of a felony and on conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to imprisonment at hard labor for a term of not exceeding one year.

The manner in which the names of persons whose names appear on said registration list shall hereafter register may be different from that required of persons registered under other Sections of this Article, and shall be as now provided or hereafter provided by law; and the remedy and proceedings whereby, subsequently to the close of said registration, on August 31st, 1913, the names of any persons who may have obtained registration under this Section by false statement of facts or other fraud shall be stricken from said roll, shall be as now provided or hereafter provided by law.

Section 2. Be it further resolved, etc., that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to the qualified voters of this State for adoption or rejection at the Congressional election to be held in November, 1912.

Section 3. Be it further resolved, etc., that on the official ballots to be used at said election there shall be printed the words: "For the proposed amendment of Section 5 of Article 197 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana, relative to registration of voters" and the words:

"Against the proposed amendment to Section 5 of Article 197 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana, relative to registration of voters," and each elector shall indicate, as provided by the general election laws of this State, whether he votes for or against the proposed amendment.

L. E. THOMAS,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

THOMAS C. BARRET,  
Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate.

Approved: June 25th, 1912.

L. E. HALL,  
Governor of the State of Louisiana.

A true copy:  
ALVIN E. HEBERT,  
Secretary of State.

### ACT NO. 132.

Senate Bill No. 137. By Mr. Beale.

#### JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to Article (231) two eighty-one of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana relative to the incurring of debt and issuing bonds for work of public improvement, and to the validation, and refunding of bonds issued for such improvements, by municipal corporations, parishes and school, drainage, sewerage and other districts (the City of New Orleans excepted), and the assessment of special taxes and forced contributions to pay for same.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, two-thirds (2-3) of all the members elected to each House, concurring, That Article two hundred and eighty-one (281) of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana be so amended as to read as follows:—

#### ARTICLE 281

Paragraph 1. Municipal corporations, parishes and school, drainage, sub-drainage, road, subroad, navigation, or sewerage districts, City of

New Orleans excepted, hereinafter referred to as subdivisions of the State, when authorized by a vote of a majority, in number and amount of the property taxpayers, qualified to vote under the Constitution and laws of this State, who vote at an election held for that purpose, after due notice of said election has been published for thirty days in the official journal of the municipal corporation or parish or where there is no official journal, in a newspaper published therein, may, through their respective governing authorities incur debt and issue negotiable bonds therefor, and each year while any bonds thus issued are outstanding, the governing authorities of such subdivisions shall impose and collect annually, in excess of all other taxes, a tax sufficient to pay the interest, annually or semi-annually, and the principal falling due each year, or such amount as may be required for any sinking fund necessary to retire said bonds at maturity; provided that such special taxes, for all purposes as above set forth shall not in any year exceed ten mills on the dollar of assessed valuation of the property in such subdivisions.

No bonds shall be issued for any other purpose than that stated in the submission of the proposition to the taxpayer, and published for thirty (30) days as aforesaid, or for a greater amount than therein mentioned; nor shall such bonds be issued for any other purposes than the constructing, improving and maintaining public roads and highways, paving and improving streets, roads and alleys, purchasing and constructing systems of waterworks, sewerage, drainage, navigation, lights, public parks and buildings, together with all necessary equipments and furnishing, bridges and other works of public improvement, the title to which shall rest in the subdivision creating the debt, as the case may be; nor shall such bonds run for a longer period than forty (40) years from their date or bear a greater rate of interest than five per centum (5) per annum, or be sold for less than par. The total issue of bonds by any subdivision for all purposes shall never exceed ten per centum (10) of the assessed valuation of the property in such subdivisions. Municipal councils are granted the authority to create within their limits one or more sewerage districts.

Paragraph 2. Police juries in any parish or parishes may in accordance with law create drainage districts, which, in addition to the powers hereinabove granted, shall have further power and authority to provide and maintain drainage systems and the governing authorities of such districts, when authorized by a majority in number and amount of the property taxpayers of said district qualified to vote under the Constitution and laws, who vote at an election held for that purpose, may impose and collect for a period not exceeding forty years forced contributions or acreage taxes not exceeding fifty cents per acre per year on every acre of land in the subdivision where such an election is held. The governing authority of such subdivision when authorized as set forth, may incur debt and issue negotiable bonds to represent same, secured by the taxes above described provided that the total amount of debts thus incurred or bonds issued, shall never exceed in principal and interest the aggregate amount to be raised by said annual contributions or acreage taxes during the period for which the same are imposed and that no such bonds shall be issued for any other purpose than that for which said contributions or acreage taxes were voted, run for a longer period than forty years, bear a greater rate of interest than five per centum per annum or be sold for less than par. All bond issues heretofore authorized by taxpayers in any subdivision at any election not contested on any ground of fraud, are hereby recognized and validated.

Paragraph 3. When the character of any land is such that it must be leveed and pumped in order to be drained and reclaimed, the Board of Drainage Commissioners of the District in which the land is situated, shall, upon the petition of not less than a majority in acreage of the property taxpayers, resident and non-resident, in the area to be affected, ascertain the cost of drainage, and reclaiming said land and incur debt against said land for an amount sufficient to drain and reclaim it, and issue for such debt negotiable bonds running not longer than forty (40) years from their date and bearing

interest at a rate not exceeding five per centum per annum payable annually or semi-annually, which bonds shall not be sold for less than par; and said Board of Drainage Commissioners shall levy annually upon said land forced contributions or acreage taxes in an amount sufficient to maintain the drainage of said land, to pay the interest, annually or semi-annually, and the principal falling due each year, or such amount as may be required for any sinking fund provided for payment of said bonds at maturity, provided, that such forced contributions or acreage taxes, for all purposes shall never exceed Three Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$3.50) per acre per annum.

Paragraph 4. The police juries of the various parishes throughout the State, for the purpose of constructing highways and public buildings for the parish, and the governing authorities of municipal corporations, for the purpose of paving or improving streets or alleys, and for all municipal improvements, after making provision for the payment of all statutory and ordinary charges, may fund into bonds running for a period not exceeding ten (10) years, and bearing interest at a rate not exceeding five (5) per centum per annum, which bonds shall not be sold for less than par, the avails of the residue of the ten (10) mill tax authorized by Article 232 of the Constitution of Louisiana.

Paragraph 5. Should any of the subdivisions of the State neglect or fail for any reason to impose or collect the taxes provided for in the foregoing sections, any person in interest may by summary proceedings in the district court having jurisdiction, enforce the imposition or collection of such taxes, or both, and such proceedings shall be filed and triable free to any cost to the litigant.

Paragraph 6. Municipal corporations, parishes and school, drainage, sub-drainage, road, subroad, navigation and sewerage districts (the City of New Orleans excepted,) hereinafter referred to as subdivisions, when authorized to do so in the manner herein provided, may, for the purpose of readjusting, refunding, extending or unifying their bonded indebtedness, issue new bonds, covering any particular issue or issues of bonds or the whole outstanding bonded indebtedness incurred by such subdivision for the purposes specified in Paragraph 1 of this article or any issue of refund issue bonds or renewal or refunding bonds issued by such subdivision in novation or renewal and any bonds, heretofore or hereafter issued for the purposes specified in said Paragraph 1 of this Article. No bonds issued under this paragraph shall run for more than forty (40) years from their date, nor shall bear a greater rate of interest than five per centum per annum, payable semi-annually or annually and shall not be sold by such subdivision issuing the same for less than par. Any bonds issued under this Article, may be, either in whole or in part, exchanged value for value for bonds issued, under Article 281, or to be issued under said Paragraph 1 of this Article, or sold and the proceeds thereof used for the purpose of purchasing outstanding bonds. Before any bonds shall be issued under this paragraph the issuance thereof shall be authorized by a vote of a majority in number and amount of the property taxpayers qualified to vote under the Constitution and laws of this State who vote on the proposition at an election held for that purpose, after due notice of said election has been published, for thirty days in the official journal of the parish or parishes in which said subdivisions are located, or where there is no official journal, in any newspaper published in such parish or parishes, provided, however, that the governing body of any such subdivision may in their discretion and without a vote of the property taxpayers, issue refunding or renewal bonds under this paragraph, if the bonds to be refunded or renewed thereby have been or shall be issued for any of the purposes specified in said Paragraph 1 of this Article, or in novation or renewal of any bonds issued or to be issued for the said purposes specified in Paragraph 1 of this Article, and such issue or issues so refunded or renewed have been or shall be authorized by a vote of a majority in number and amount of the property taxpayers qualified by a vote under the Constitution and laws of this State who voted or shall vote on the proposition at an election held for that purpose. When the

bonds of any outstanding issue shall have been obtained either by purchase or exchange, the tax levy to pay for such bonds shall at once cease and such bonds be canceled. Each year while any refunding bonds issued under this paragraph are outstanding, the governing authorities of such subdivision shall levy and collect annually, in excess of all other taxes, a tax sufficient to pay the interest, annually or semi-annually, and the principal falling due or such amount as may be required for a sinking fund for the payment of said bonds at maturity, provided that such special ad valorem tax for all purposes shall not in any year exceed ten mills on the dollar of the assessed valuation of the property in such subdivision.

The governing body of any such subdivision shall have full power to adopt and pass all ordinances and resolutions necessary to carry the provisions of this paragraph into effect. An election may be held under the provisions of this paragraph at the same times and places and by the same election officers as an election on the question of incurring debt and issuing bonds under the provisions of said Paragraph 1 of this Article.

Where bonds of any subdivision have been heretofore issued for any of the purposes specified in Paragraph 1 of this Article, and such issue has been authorized by the vote of a majority in number and amount of the property taxpayers qualified to vote under the Constitution and laws of this State who voted upon the proposition to issue such bonds at an election held for that purpose and where such bonds have been issued and sold by such subdivision for not less than par value thereof, for said bonds or any refund issue bonds or renewal or refunding bonds issued in novation or renewal of bonds issued for said purposes specified in Paragraph 1 of Article two hundred and eighty-one (281) are hereby validated, ratified and confirmed; provided that such bonds did not at the time of their issue exceed ten per centum of the assessed valuation of the property in such subdivision, and such bonds hereby ratified, approved and confirmed shall be deemed to be the valid and incontestable obligations of such subdivision and a tax for the payment of the principal and interest thereof and to create a sinking fund for the redemption shall be levied and collected in the manner and within the limits prescribed by said Paragraph 1 of this Article. This entire Article is to be considered a full grant of power to the subdivisions of the State, as set forth therein.

Section 2. Be it further resolved, etc., That this proposed amendment shall be submitted to the qualified voters of this State for adoption or rejection at the Congressional election to be held in November, 1912, and, if adopted, the same shall take effect immediately thereafter.

Section 3. Be it further resolved, etc., That on the official ballots to be issued at said election there shall be placed the words "For the proposed amendment to Article Two Hundred and Eighty-one of the Constitution of Louisiana," and the words "Against the proposed amendment to Article Two Hundred and Eighty-one of the Constitution of Louisiana," and each elector shall indicate, as provided in the general election laws of the State, which of the propositions, "For" or "Against," he votes.

L. E. THOMAS,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

THOMAS C. BARRET,  
Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate.

Approved July 9th, 1912.

L. E. HALL,  
Governor of the State of Louisiana.

A true copy:  
ALVIN E. HEBERT,  
Secretary of State.

### ACT NO. 133.

Senate Bill No. 1. By Mr. Geo. Wesley Smith.

#### JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to Article 223 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, two-thirds of all members elected to each House concurring, That an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Louisiana be submitted to the qualified electors of the State for their approval or rejection,

as required by Article 221 of the Constitution, at the Congressional election to be held on the first Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 1912, amending and re-enacting Article 223 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana so as to read as follows:

#### ARTICLE 223.

Section 1. Upon the recommendation of the Auditor of the Police Jury of any parish, the Governor may suspend any officer charged with the collection or custody of public funds when in arrears.

Section 2. Any officer of this State, or of any district, judicial or otherwise, and any officer of any parish or ward thereof, and any officer of any municipality or ward thereof (except the judges of all of the courts of record of this State, the judges of the various city courts throughout the State, and the justices of the peace) holding office by virtue of having been elected thereto by the legally qualified voters of this State, or of any district, judicial or otherwise, or of any parish or ward thereof, or of any municipality or ward thereof, shall be subject to recall from such office by the qualified voters of this State, or of any district, judicial or otherwise, or of any parish or ward thereof, or of any municipality or ward thereof, at any election throughout the State, district, judicial or otherwise, or of any parish or ward thereof, or of any municipality or ward thereof, by a majority of the legally qualified voters participating in such election. Such recall election shall be held when petitioned for by such a number of the legally qualified voters of the State, district, judicial or otherwise, or of any parish or ward thereof, or of any municipality or ward thereof, as will equal thirty per cent of the total number of registered voters qualified to vote at the last preceding general election for the office the incumbent of which is sought to be recalled. Notice of intention to circulate such petition together with a statement of the reasons why the recall of such officers is sought shall be given to such officers in such manner as may be provided by law.

The General Assembly shall by appropriate legislation, prescribe the form of petition, the manner of verification and ascertainment that the requisite number of legally qualified voters has signed same, and also the manner and method of calling such election and the promulgations of the returns thereof. Such ballot shall contain the specific question, "Shall (naming the officer and giving his official title) be recalled," and opposite the question shall be two squares, in one of which shall be printed "Yes" and in the other shall be printed "No," and no ballot shall be considered at such election unless the voter shall have voted either "yes" or "no" upon such question. No officer shall be subject to recall until after he has been in office one year, and should his recall be defeated by the electors, then he shall not again, during that term of office, be subject to recall. At least three months, but not more than five months, shall elapse from the time that the necessary number of petitioners has asked for the recall election before same shall be held. A successor, for the remainder of the term, to the officer sought to be recalled shall be elected at the same time the recall election is held, and should the majority of the voters participating in such election be in favor of the recall of such officer, then immediately after the promulgation of the returns of such election, the successor so elected shall qualify. The General Assembly shall provide by law how candidates to succeed the officer sought to be recalled may have their names placed on the recall ballot of the State, district, judicial or otherwise, parish or ward thereof, or of any municipality, or ward thereof, by petition signed by qualified voters to the number of not less than thirty per cent of the total number of registered voters qualified to vote at the last preceding general election for the office the incumbent of which is sought to be recalled. All voters may express a first choice and a second choice, and the candidate who is the first choice of the greatest number of voters shall be declared to be elected, if the election has resulted in the recall of the officer sought to be recalled. The officer sought to be recalled shall not be a candidate at such recall election.

Section 3. Be it further resolved, etc., That the official ballot to be used at said election shall have printed thereon the following question: "Shall \_\_\_\_\_ (naming the officer and giving his official title) be recalled?" and opposite the question shall be two squares, in one of which shall be printed "Yes" and in the other shall be printed "No," and no ballot shall be considered at such election unless the voter shall have voted either "yes" or "no" upon such question. No officer shall be subject to recall until after he has been in office one year, and should his recall be defeated by the electors, then he shall not again, during that term of office, be subject to recall. At least three months, but not more than five months, shall elapse from the time that the necessary number of petitioners has asked for the recall election before same shall be held. A successor, for the remainder of the term, to the officer sought to be recalled shall be elected at the same time the recall election is held, and should the majority of the voters participating in such election be in favor of the recall of such officer, then immediately after the promulgation of the returns of such election, the successor so elected shall qualify. The General Assembly shall provide by law how candidates to succeed the officer sought to be recalled may have their names placed on the recall ballot of the State, district, judicial or otherwise, parish or ward thereof, or of any municipality, or ward thereof, by petition signed by qualified voters to the number of not less than thirty per cent of the total number of registered voters qualified to vote at the last preceding general election for the office the incumbent of which is sought to be recalled. All voters may express a first choice and a second choice, and the candidate who is the first choice of the greatest number of voters shall be declared to be elected, if the election has resulted in the recall of the officer sought to be recalled. The officer sought to be recalled shall not be a candidate at such recall election.