

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

SENATE JOINT
RESOLUTION 17

By: Newhouse

AS INTRODUCED

A Joint Resolution calling a Constitutional Convention to modernize, update, or amend the present Constitution of the State of Oklahoma or to propose a new Constitution; fixing the time and place thereof; providing for selection of delegates to the Convention; directing certain members of the Legislature and the Governor to form a committee to select certain delegates; providing date of adjournment; providing for submission of constitutional changes to the voters of the state; providing for submission of this joint resolution to a vote of the people; ordering a special election; providing ballot title; and directing filing.

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Article XXIV of the Oklahoma Constitution requires that a proposal to hold a Constitutional Convention shall be submitted to a vote of the people at least once every twenty (20) years; and

WHEREAS, the last proposal providing for a Constitutional Convention was submitted to a vote of the people March 17, 1970; and

WHEREAS, a State Question to eliminate the requirement that a Constitutional Convention proposal be submitted to the people every

1 twenty (20) years was defeated at the General Election held November
2 8, 1994; and

3 WHEREAS, the current Constitution is the second longest in the
4 United States and contains many references to antiquated industries,
5 provisions, and terms to be removed or updated; and

6 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the Legislature to enact a law
7 providing for a Constitutional Convention and to submit the law to a
8 vote of the people.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
10 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 59TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

11 SECTION 1. The Secretary of State shall refer to the people for
12 their approval or rejection, as and in the manner provided by law,
13 the question, pursuant specifically to Section 2 of Article XXIV of
14 the Oklahoma Constitution, of calling a Constitutional Convention
15 for the purpose of modernizing, updating, or amending the current
16 Constitution, or to propose a new Constitution for this state.

17 SECTION 2. The Constitutional Convention shall convene not
18 later than twelve o'clock noon, September 12, 2024, in Oklahoma City
19 at the State Capitol.

20 SECTION 3. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker
21 of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the Senate,
22 the Minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the
23 Governor, shall form a committee to determine and select the
24 delegates to participate in the Constitutional Convention.

1 SECTION 4. The Constitutional Convention shall adjourn sine die
2 no later than June 30, 2025.

3 SECTION 5. A special election is hereby ordered to be held
4 throughout this state on or before March 5, 2024, at which time the
5 proposed Constitutional Convention, as set forth in SECTION 1 of
6 this resolution, shall be submitted to the people of Oklahoma for
7 their approval or rejection as and in the manner provided by law.

8 SECTION 6. The Ballot Title for the proposed question to be put
9 before the people as provided herein shall be in the following form:

10 BALLOT TITLE

11 Legislative Referendum No. _____ State Question No. _____

12 THE GIST OF THE PROPOSITION IS AS FOLLOWS:

13 This measure calls a state Constitutional Convention. It would
14 begin on September 12, 2024. It would end by June 30, 2025. It
15 would review the State Constitution. It could alter, amend, or
16 revise the Constitution. It could propose a new State
17 Constitution. Any change in the Constitution or new
18 Constitution must be presented for approval to state voters.
19 This would happen at the General Election in 2026.

20 SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?

21 FOR THE PROPOSAL - YES _____

22 AGAINST THE PROPOSAL - NO _____

1 SECTION 7. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall
2 immediately after the passage of this resolution, prepare and file
3 one copy thereof, including the Ballot Title set forth in SECTION 6
4 hereof, with the Secretary of State and one copy with the Attorney
5 General.

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