

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF PENNSYLVANIA

The following are true and correct copies of joint resolutions of the General Assembly regarding amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania that were proposed in the General Assembly during the 2015 session. The proposed amendments were agreed to by a majority of the members elected to the Senate and the House of Representatives. Pursuant to Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution, the Secretary of the Commonwealth has caused the proposed amendments to be published here. Were any of these proposed amendments to be agreed to by a majority of the Senators and Representatives elected to the General Assembly at the November 8, 2016 General Election, the proposed amendments so approved would be published again and then submitted to the qualified electors of Pennsylvania for approval. If approved by a majority of the electors voting on it, the corresponding amendment becomes part of the Constitution.

Those parts of the joint resolutions that appear in **BOLD PRINT** are the words of the Constitution that are proposed by the General Assembly for addition or deletion. If an amendment were approved, the words **UNDERLINED** would be added to the Constitution and the words in **BRACKETS (e.g. [Constitution])** would be deleted. The unbolded words would remain unchanged in the Constitution.

Anyone who needs help reading this advertisement or needs the text of the proposed amendments in an alternative format may call or write the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation, Room 210 North Office Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120, 1-877-868-3772, ra-BCEL@pa.gov.

Pedro A. Cortés, Secretary of the Commonwealth

Joint Resolution 2016-1

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, reducing the size of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby resolves as follows:

Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with Article XI:

That section 16 of Article II be amended to read:

§ 16. Legislative districts.

The Commonwealth shall be divided into 50 senatorial and **[203]** **151** representative districts, which shall be composed of compact and contiguous territory as nearly equal in population as practicable. Each senatorial district shall elect one Senator, and each representative district one Representative. Unless absolutely necessary no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward shall be divided in forming either a senatorial or representative district.

Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of this proposed constitutional amendment.

(b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of this proposed constitutional amendment. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall submit this proposed constitutional amendment to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth at the first primary, general or municipal election which meets the requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is passed by the General Assembly.

Section 3. Upon ratification by the electors, the General Assembly shall enact legislation to implement this constitutional amendment so that it applies for the first time to the first session of the General Assembly which begins after the 2020 reapportionment.

Joint Resolution 2016-2

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for exemptions and special provisions.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby resolves as follows:

Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with the provisions of Article XI:

That section 2(b)(vi) of Article VIII be amended to read:

§ 2. Exemptions and special provisions.

(b) The General Assembly may, by law:

(vi) Authorize local taxing authorities to exclude from taxation an amount based on the assessed value of homestead property. The exclusions authorized by this clause shall not exceed **[one-half of the median assessed value of all]** **100% of the assessed value of each** homestead property within a local taxing jurisdiction. A local taxing authority may not increase the millage rate of its tax on real property to pay for these exclusions.

Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of this proposed constitutional amendment.

(b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of this proposed constitutional amendment. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall submit this proposed constitutional amendment to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth at the first primary, general or municipal election which meets the requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is passed by the General Assembly.

Joint Resolution 2016-3

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in taxation and finance, further providing for exemptions and special provisions.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby resolves as follows:

Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with Article XI:

That section 2(b) of Article VIII be amended by adding a paragraph to read:

§ 2. Exemptions and special provisions.

(b) The General Assembly may, by law:

(vii) Permit a city of the first class to impose taxes for the benefit of the city of the first class on real estate used for business purposes at a tax rate that exceeds the tax rate applicable to other real estate, in accordance with the following:

(A) So long as a rate variance is in effect, the combined rate of taxes on real estate used for business purposes imposed by the city of the first class or authorized by the city of the first class for its school district shall not vary by more than fifteen percent from the combined rate of taxes on other real estate imposed or authorized by the city of the first class.

(B) The General Assembly shall require the city of the first class to reduce the aggregate revenue from other taxes imposed for the benefit of the city of the first class both on businesses and any wage and net profits tax by the amount of any real estate tax revenues attributable to the variance.

Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of this proposed constitutional amendment.

(b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of this proposed constitutional amendment. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall submit this proposed constitutional amendment to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth at the first primary, general or municipal election which meets the requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is passed by the General Assembly.