

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE, PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS -- A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIREMENT FOR GENERAL OFFICERS' ELECTION)

Introduced By: Senators Morgan, Paolino, Raptakis, and Cote

Date Introduced: March 20, 2018

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, The proposed amendment to Article IV, Section 2, of the Constitution of the
2 State is intended to provide that successful candidates for state general offices have received a
3 majority of votes cast; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That a majority of all members elected to each house of the general
5 assembly voting therefor, the following amendment to the Constitution of the State be proposed
6 to the qualified electors of the state in accordance with the provisions of Article XIV of the
7 Constitution for their approval and the following section is hereby amended, effective January 1,
8 2019, to read as follows:

9 ARTICLE IV

10 OF ELECTIONS AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE

11 Section 2. ~~Election by plurality~~ Election by majority or plurality. -- In all elections of
12 general officers, only those persons or candidates receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be
13 declared elected. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, then a runoff election
14 between the top two (2) vote-getters shall be held. The candidate receiving the largest number of
15 votes cast in the runoff election shall be declared elected.

16 In all other elections held by the people for other state; officers, and for city, town, ward
17 or district officers, the person or candidate receiving the largest number of votes cast shall be
18 declared elected.

19 RESOLVED, That the said proposition of amendment shall be submitted to the electors

1 for their approval or rejection at the next statewide general election. The voting places in the
2 several cities and towns shall be kept open during the hours required by law for voting therein for
3 general officers of the state; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause the said proposition of amendment to
5 be published as a part of this resolution in the newspapers of the state prior to the date of the said
6 meetings of the said electors and the said proposition shall be read by the town, ward, or district
7 meetings to be held as aforesaid; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the town, ward, and district meetings to be held as aforesaid shall be
9 warned, and the list of voters shall be canvassed and made up, and the said town, ward, and
10 district meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as now provided by law for the town,
11 ward, and district meetings for the election of general officers of the state.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
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AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (MAJORITY VOTE
REQUIREMENT FOR GENERAL OFFICERS' ELECTION)

- 1 This proposed constitutional amendment would provide for a run-off election between
- 2 the top two vote getters for each general office if no candidate has received a majority.

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