

ENGROSSED SENATE
JOINT
RESOLUTION NO. 18

By: Ford of the Senate

and

Reese and Thornbrugh of the
House

A Joint Resolution directing the Secretary of State to refer to the people for their approval or rejection proposed amendments to Section 34 of Article VI of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma and Section 10 of Article XXIII of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma, which relates to increases in compensation during a term of office; empowering the Legislature to change the salaries of the Corporation Commissioners; providing an exception for the members of the Corporation Commission; providing ballot title; directing filing; and providing for special election.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2ND SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

SECTION 1. The Secretary of State shall refer to the people for their approval or rejection, as and in the manner provided by law, the following proposed amendment to Section 34 of Article VI and Section 10 of Article XXIII of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma, to read as follows:

Section 34. Each of the officers in this article named shall, at stated times, during his continuance in office, receive for his services a compensation, which shall not be increased or diminished during the term for which he shall have been elected; nor shall he receive to his use, any fees, cost, or perquisites of office or other compensation. The Legislature shall, however, be empowered to change and may raise the compensation of the three (3) Corporation

Commissioners every two (2) years; such change to become effective on January 1, following the succeeding general election.

Section 10. Except wherein otherwise provided in this Constitution, in no case shall the salary or emoluments of any public official be changed after his election or appointment, or during his term of office, unless by operation of law enacted prior to such election or appointment; nor shall the term of any public official be extended beyond the period for which he was elected or appointed: Provided, That all officers within this State shall continue to perform the duties of their offices until their successors shall be duly qualified. The Legislature shall, however, be empowered to change and may raise the salaries of the three (3) Corporation Commissioners every two (2) years; such change to become effective on January 1, following the succeeding general election.

SECTION 2. The Ballot Title for the proposed Constitutional amendment as set forth in SECTION 1 of this resolution shall be in the following form:

BALLOT TITLE

Legislative Referendum No. _____ State Question No. _____

THE GIST OF THE PROPOSITION IS AS FOLLOWS:

This measure seeks to change Sections 34 and 10 of Articles 6 and 23, respectively, of the State Constitution. Unlike other public officials, members of the Corporation Commission share equal power. These officials hold office beginning in different years. These officials may only receive an increase in pay if that pay increase has been written into law before they take office. The current law allows these officials to receive different pay but share equal power. Because the current law does not allow these officials' pay to increase while holding office, they may serve at the same time but have different pay levels. This measure seeks to equalize the compensation levels of these officials.

SHALL THIS AMENDMENT BE APPROVED BY THE PEOPLE?

 / YES, FOR THE AMENDMENT

 / NO, AGAINST THE AMENDMENT

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

SECTION 4. A special election is hereby ordered to be held throughout the State of Oklahoma on the date of the next statewide primary election or special election, whichever occurs first, at which time the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma, as set forth in SECTION 1 of this resolution, shall be submitted to the people of Oklahoma for their approval or rejection as and in the manner provided by law.

Passed the Senate the 24th day of February, 1998.

President of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of
_____, 1998.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives