

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE JOINT
RESOLUTION 27

By: Goodwin

AS INTRODUCED

A Joint Resolution directing the Secretary of State to refer to the people for their approval or rejection a proposed amendment to Section 10 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution; requiring vote of the people to clarify voting procedures of the Pardon and Parole Board; updating language; providing ballot title; and directing filing.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2ND SESSION OF THE 60TH 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 10 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution to read as follows:

Section 10. There is hereby created a Pardon and Parole Board to be composed of five (5) members~~+~~: three to be appointed by the Governor~~+~~, one by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court~~+~~, and one by the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Court of Appeals or its successor. An attorney member of the Board shall be prohibited from representing in the courts of this state persons charged with felony

1 offenses. The appointed members shall hold their offices
2 coterminous with that of the Governor and shall be removable for
3 cause only in the manner provided by law for elective officers not
4 liable to impeachment. It shall be the duty of the Board to make an
5 impartial investigation and study of applicants for commutations,
6 pardons or paroles, and by a majority vote make its recommendations
7 to the Governor of all persons deemed worthy of clemency. Provided,
8 the Pardon and Parole Board shall have no authority to make
9 recommendations regarding parole for persons sentenced to death or
10 sentenced to life imprisonment without parole.

11 Where an applicant has received a sentence of death, a
12 recommendation by the Board for clemency that results in a tie vote
13 shall not constitute a denial of the recommendation.

14 Where the applicant has received a sentence of death, in the
15 absence of a regularly appointed Board member, or when a regularly
16 appointed Board member has recused from voting due to an alleged
17 conflict of interest, alternate Board members shall be available to
18 vote on a recommendation for clemency when necessary to break a tie
19 vote. There shall be seven alternate members of the Pardon and
20 Parole Board: three alternate members appointed by the Governor,
21 two alternate members appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme
22 Court, and two alternate members appointed by the Presiding Judge of
23 the Criminal Court of Appeals or its successor. Alternate members
24 of the Board shall be prioritized according to the preferences of

1 the appointing authority and shall meet the same appointment
2 qualifications and criteria as regularly appointed Board members.
3 In cases where the utilization of an alternate member is necessary
4 to vote on a recommendation for clemency, the alternate member
5 selected shall represent the same appointing authority as that of
6 the Board member who is absent or has recused from voting and shall
7 have no less than one hundred eighty (180) days to review the
8 investigation and application for clemency.

9 The Pardon and Parole Board by majority vote shall have the
10 power and authority to grant parole for nonviolent offenses after
11 conviction, upon such conditions and with such restrictions and
12 limitations as the majority of the Pardon and Parole Board may deem
13 proper or as may be required by law. The Pardon and Parole Board
14 shall have no authority to grant but may recommend parole for
15 persons sentenced pursuant to Section 13.1 of Title 21 of the
16 Oklahoma Statutes or the exceptions to nonviolent offenses as
17 defined by Section 571 of Title 57 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

18 The Governor shall have the power to grant, after conviction and
19 after favorable recommendation by a majority vote of the Pardon and
20 Parole Board, commutations, pardons and paroles for all offenses,
21 except cases of impeachment, upon such conditions and with such
22 restrictions and limitations as the Governor may deem proper,
23 subject to such regulations as may be prescribed by law. Provided,
24 the Governor shall not have the power to grant paroles if a person

1 has been sentenced to death or sentenced to life imprisonment
2 without parole. The Legislature shall have the authority to
3 prescribe a minimum mandatory period of confinement which ~~must~~ shall
4 be served by a person prior to being eligible to be considered for
5 parole. The Governor shall have power to grant after conviction,
6 reprieves or leaves of absence not to exceed sixty (60) days,
7 without the action of the Pardon and Parole Board.

8 The Governor shall communicate to the Legislature, at each
9 regular session, each case of reprieve, commutation, parole or
10 pardon granted, stating the name of the person receiving clemency,
11 the crime of which the person was convicted, the date and place of
12 conviction, and the date of commutation, pardon, parole or reprieve.

13 The Pardon and Parole Board shall communicate to the
14 Legislature, at each regular session, all paroles granted, stating
15 the names of the persons paroled, the crimes of which the persons
16 were convicted, the dates and places of conviction, and the dates of
17 paroles.

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

21 BALLOT TITLE

22 Legislative Referendum No. _____ State Question No. _____

23 THE GIST OF THE PROPOSITION IS AS FOLLOWS:
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1 This measure amends Section 10 of Article 6 of the Oklahoma
2 Constitution. It states that a tie vote on a recommendation for
3 clemency shall not be considered a denial of clemency. It
4 allows for alternate members of the Pardon and Parole Board to
5 be selected and used under certain circumstances. It states
6 that seven alternate members shall be selected and when an
7 alternate member is required to serve, the alternate member
8 shall be from the same appointing authority as the Board member
9 who cannot serve. It also allows the alternate member time to
10 review the investigation and application for clemency.

11 SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?

12 FOR THE PROPOSAL — YES _____

13 AGAINST THE PROPOSAL — NO _____

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

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