

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

HOUSE JOINT
RESOLUTION 1048

By: Fugate

AS INTRODUCED

A Joint Resolution directing the Secretary of State to refer to the people for their approval or rejection a proposed amendment to Sections 1 and 5 of Article V of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma; requiring any change to the initiative petition process made by the Legislature shall require a vote of the people; requiring that any change to the general laws for county and district initiative petition or referendum shall require a vote of the people; providing ballot title; and directing filing.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE
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 1 of Article V of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma to read as follows:

Section 1. The Legislative authority of the state shall be vested in a Legislature, consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives; but the people reserve to themselves the power to propose laws and amendments to the Constitution and to enact or

1 reject the same at the polls independent of the Legislature, and
2 also reserve power at their own option to approve or reject at the
3 polls any act of the Legislature. The people reserve the right to
4 accept or reject any proposed amendment or change to the initiative
5 or referendum process by the Legislature, and any such amendment or
6 change shall require a vote of the people.

7 SECTION 2. The Secretary of State shall refer to the people for
8 their approval or rejection, as and in the manner provided by law,
9 the following proposed amendment to Section 5 of Article V of the
10 Constitution of the State of Oklahoma to read as follows:

11 Section 5. The powers of the initiative and referendum reserved
12 to the people by this Constitution for the state at large, are
13 hereby further reserved to the legal voters of every county and
14 district therein, as to all local legislation, or action, in the
15 administration of county and district government in and for their
16 respective counties and districts. The manner of exercising said
17 powers shall be prescribed by general laws approved by vote of the
18 people, except that boards of county commissioners may provide for
19 the time of exercising the initiative and referendum powers as to
20 local legislation in their respective counties and districts.

21 The requisite number of petitioners for the invocation of the
22 initiative and referendum in counties and districts shall bear
23 twice, or double, the ratio to the whole number of legal voters in
24

1 such county or district, as herein provided therefor in the state at
2 large.

3 SECTION 3. The Ballot Title for the proposed Constitutional
4 amendment as set forth in SECTIONS 1 and 2 of this resolution shall
5 be in the following form:

6 BALLOT TITLE

7 Legislative Referendum No. _____ State Question No. _____

8 THE GIST OF THE PROPOSITION IS AS FOLLOWS:

9 This measure amends the Oklahoma Constitution in Sections 1 and
10 5 of Article 5. The first change would confirm that the people
11 of Oklahoma have the right to make laws and amend the
12 Constitution through the initiative and referendum process. It
13 would also state that if the Legislature proposes any changes
14 to the initiative or referendum process, those changes must be
15 approved by a vote of the people before they can take effect.
16 The second change would update the rules for how initiative and
17 referendum powers are used at the county and district level.
18 Current law gives these powers to voters in each county and
19 district for local laws and actions. This proposal keeps those
20 powers in place. It also makes clear that the general laws
21 that set the rules for using these powers must be laws that
22 have been approved by a vote of the people, not just passed by
23 the Legislature. Counties may still set the timing for when
24 local initiative or referendum measures are voted on. The rule

that local petition signature requirements must be twice the ratio required for statewide petitions would also remain in place.

SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?

FOR THE PROPOSAL – YES _____

AGAINST THE PROPOSAL – NO

SECTION 4. The Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, immediately after the passage of this resolution, shall prepare and file one copy thereof, including the Ballot Title set forth in SECTION 3 hereof, with the Secretary of State and one copy with the Attorney General.

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