

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 36

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATORS KELLY, SALO, PEARCE, ZHAROFF, SHARP, JACKO, Little

Introduced: 1/10/94
Referred: STA, JUD, FIN

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska requiring that
2 candidates for governor and candidates for lieutenant governor receive more than
3 50 percent of the votes cast to be elected and changing the term of office of
4 the governor and the lieutenant governor.

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

6 * Section 1. Article III, sec. 3, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:
7 SECTION 3. ELECTION. The governor shall be chosen by the qualified
8 voters of the State at a general election. The candidate receiving more than fifty
9 percent of the total [THE GREATEST] number of votes cast for governor shall be
10 governor. If a candidate does not receive more than fifty percent of the votes cast
11 for governor, a runoff election between the two candidates receiving the greatest
12 number of votes cast shall be held twenty-eight days after the general election.
13 At the runoff election, write-in ballots shall not be counted. In calculating the
14 percentage of the votes cast at the general election and at a runoff election, only
15 votes that have been properly marked for a candidate for governor shall be

1 **counted.**

2 * Sec. 2. Article III, sec. 4, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

3 SECTION 4. TERM OF OFFICE. **If a runoff election is required to elect**
4 **a governor, then the [THE] term of office of the governor begins [IS FOUR YEARS,**
5 **BEGINNING] at noon on the first day of January immediately after the election.**
6 **Otherwise, the term of office of the governor begins at noon on the** first Monday
7 in December following **the governor's [HIS] election. The term of the governor**
8 **ends when the governor's elected successor commences in office on a date**
9 **determined under this section. Election for governor occurs every four years**
10 **[AND ENDING AT NOON ON THE FIRST MONDAY IN DECEMBER FOUR**
11 **YEARS LATER].**

12 * Sec. 3. Article III, sec. 8, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

13 SECTION 8. SAME ELECTION. The lieutenant governor shall be nominated
14 in the manner provided by law for nominating candidates for other elective offices.
15 In the general election **and in any runoff election** the votes cast for a candidate for
16 governor shall be considered as cast also for the candidate for lieutenant governor
17 running jointly with him. The candidate whose name appears on the ballot jointly with
18 that of the successful candidate for governor shall be elected lieutenant governor.

19 * Sec. 4. Article XV, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended by adding a new
20 section to read:

21 SECTION 29. TRANSITIONAL PROVISION APPLICABLE TO
22 AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE III, SECTION 4. The term of office of the governor
23 elected at the general election in 1994 ends at noon on the first Monday in December
24 four years later unless, under Section 3 of Article III, a runoff election is required, in
25 which case the term of office of the governor ends at noon on the first day of January
26 1999.

27 * Sec. 5. The amendments proposed by this resolution shall be placed before the voters of
28 the state at the next general election in conformity with art. XIII, sec. 1, Constitution of the
29 State of Alaska, and the election laws of the state.