

CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 36(JUD)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/24/94
Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATORS KELLY, SALO, PEARCE, ZHAROFF, SHARP, JACKO, Little

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska requiring a
2 runoff election when the candidates for governor and lieutenant governor obtaining
3 the greatest number of votes at the general election do not receive more than
4 40 percent of the votes cast, and changing the term of office of the governor
5 and the lieutenant governor.

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

7 * Section 1. Article III, sec. 3, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:
8 SECTION 3. ELECTION. The governor shall be chosen by the qualified
9 voters of the State at a general election. The candidate receiving the greatest number
10 of votes shall be governor but only if the candidate receives more than forty
11 percent of the total number of votes cast for governor at the general election. If
12 a candidate does not receive more than forty percent of the votes cast for
13 governor, a runoff election between the two candidates receiving the greatest
14 number of votes cast shall be held thirty-five days after the general election. At
15 the runoff election, write-in ballots shall not be counted. In calculating the

1 percentage of the votes cast at the general election and at a runoff election, only
2 votes that have been properly marked for a candidate for governor shall be
3 counted.

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

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

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

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

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

23 SECTION 29. TRANSITIONAL PROVISION APPLICABLE TO
24 AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE III, SECTION 4. The term of office of the governor
25 elected at the general election in 1994 ends at noon on the first Monday in December
26 four years later unless, under Section 3 of Article III, a runoff election is required, in
27 which case the term of office of the governor ends at noon on the first day of January
28 1999.

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