

By: Simpson

H.J.R. No. 103

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment to abolish the requirement  
2 that certain counties continue to be divided into not fewer than  
3 four precincts used to elect justices of the peace and constables.

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 18(a), Article V, Texas Constitution, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (a) Each county in the State with a population of 50,000 or  
8 more, according to the most recent federal census, from time to  
9 time, for the convenience of the people, shall be divided into not  
10 less than four and not more than eight precincts. Each county in  
11 the State with a population of 18,000 or more but less than 50,000,  
12 according to the most recent federal census, from time to time, for  
13 the convenience of the people, shall be divided into not less than  
14 two and not more than eight precincts. Each county in the State  
15 with a population of less than 18,000, according to the most recent  
16 federal census, from time to time, for the convenience of the  
17 people, shall be designated as a single precinct or, if the  
18 Commissioners Court determines that the county needs more than one  
19 precinct, shall be divided into not more than four precincts.  
20 Notwithstanding the population requirements of this subsection,  
21 Chambers County and Randall County, from time to time, for the  
22 convenience of the people, shall be divided into not less than two  
23 and not more than six precincts. A division or designation under  
24 this subsection shall be made by the Commissioners Court provided

1 for by this Constitution. Except as provided by this section, in  
2 each such precinct there shall be elected one Justice of the Peace  
3 and one Constable, each of whom shall hold his office for four years  
4 and until his successor shall be elected and qualified; provided  
5 that in a county with a population of less than 150,000, according  
6 to the most recent federal census, in any precinct in which there  
7 may be a city of 18,000 or more inhabitants, there shall be elected  
8 two Justices of the Peace, and in a county with a population of  
9 150,000 or more, according to the most recent federal census, each  
10 precinct may contain more than one Justice of the Peace Court.  
11 ~~[Notwithstanding the population requirements of this subsection,~~  
12 ~~any county that is divided into four or more precincts on November~~  
13 ~~2, 1999, shall continue to be divided into not less than four~~  
14 ~~precincts.]~~

15 SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be  
16 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 5, 2013.  
17 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the  
18 proposition: "The constitutional amendment abolishing the  
19 requirement that a county divided into four or more precincts on  
20 November 2, 1999, continue to be divided into not fewer than four  
21 precincts used to elect justices of the peace and constables."