

By: Simmons

H.J.R. No. 123

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment extending the length of the
2 terms of members of the legislature.

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

4 SECTION 1. Section 3, Article III, Texas Constitution, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Sec. 3. (a) The Senators shall be chosen by the qualified
7 voters for the term of six [~~four~~] years.

8 (b) Senators serve staggered terms, with one-third or as
9 near as possible to one-third of the Senators elected every two
10 years [~~, but a new Senate shall be chosen after every apportionment,~~
11 ~~and the Senators elected after each apportionment shall be divided~~
12 ~~by lot into two classes. The seats of the Senators of the first~~
13 ~~class shall be vacated at the expiration of the first two years, and~~
14 ~~those of the second class at the expiration of four years, so that~~
15 ~~one half of the Senators shall be chosen biennially thereafter].~~

16 (c) Senators shall take office following their election, on
17 the day set by law for the convening of the Regular Session of the
18 Legislature, and shall serve thereafter for the full term of years
19 to which elected.

20 SECTION 2. Section 4, Article III, Texas Constitution, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Sec. 4. (a) The Members of the House of Representatives
23 shall be chosen by the qualified voters for the term of four [~~two~~]
24 years.

1 (b) Representatives serve staggered terms, with one-half or
2 as near as possible to one-half of the Representatives elected
3 every two years.

4 (c) Representatives shall take office following their
5 election, on the day set by law for the convening of the Regular
6 Session of the Legislature, and shall serve thereafter for the full
7 term of years to which elected.

8 SECTION 3. The following temporary provision is added to
9 the Texas Constitution:

10 TEMPORARY PROVISION. (a) This temporary provision applies
11 to the constitutional amendment proposed by the 84th Legislature,
12 Regular Session, 2015, extending the length of the terms of members
13 of the legislature. This temporary provision expires December 31,
14 2023.

15 (b) The terms of all members of the senate of the 84th
16 Legislature expire on the day set by law for the convening of the
17 regular session of the legislature in 2017.

18 (c) During the regular session of the 85th Legislature, the
19 senate district numbers shall be divided into three classes, with
20 10 senate district numbers in the first class, 10 senate district
21 numbers in the second class, and 11 senate district numbers in the
22 third class. The senators shall draw lots to determine the class to
23 which the senate district number each senator represents belongs;
24 but if there is no senator representing a senate district number,
25 the secretary of the senate shall draw a lot for that senate
26 district number. The terms of the senators representing senate
27 district numbers in the first class expire on the day set by law for

1 the convening of the regular session of the legislature in 2019, the
2 terms of the senators representing senate district numbers in the
3 second class expire on the day set by law for the convening of the
4 regular session of the legislature in 2021, and the terms of the
5 senators representing senate district numbers in the third class
6 expire on the day set by law for the convening of the regular
7 session of the legislature in 2023. A senator shall be elected to
8 represent a senate district number for a term of six years following
9 the initial term for that senate district number as provided by this
10 subsection.

11 (d) During the regular session of the 85th Legislature, the
12 house of representatives district numbers shall be divided into two
13 classes, with 75 house district numbers in the first class and 75
14 house district numbers in the second class. The representatives
15 shall draw lots to determine the class to which the house district
16 number each representative represents belongs; but if there is no
17 representative representing a house district number, the chief
18 clerk of the house of representatives shall draw a lot for that
19 house district number. The terms of the representatives
20 representing house district numbers in the first class expire on
21 the day set by law for the convening of the regular session of the
22 legislature in 2019 and the terms of the representatives
23 representing house district numbers in the second class expire on
24 the day set by law for the convening of the regular session of the
25 legislature in 2021. A representative shall be elected to represent
26 a house district number for a term of four years following the
27 initial term for that house district number as provided by this

1 subsection.

2 SECTION 4. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
3 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 3, 2015.
4 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
5 proposition: "The constitutional amendment extending the length
6 of the terms of members of the legislature."