

By: Schofield

H.J.R. No. 72

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment to provide for the governor's  
2 and lieutenant governor's terms of office to begin at 10 a.m. on the  
3 day preceding the day the regular legislative session convenes.

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

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

7 Sec. 4. The Governor elected at the general election in 2018  
8 [~~1974~~], and thereafter, shall be installed at 10 a.m. on the day  
9 preceding the day set by law for the convening of the regular  
10 session of the legislature [~~first Tuesday after the organization of~~  
11 ~~the Legislature, or as soon thereafter as practicable,~~] and shall  
12 hold [~~his~~] office for the term of four years, or until a [~~his~~]  
13 successor shall be duly installed. The Governor [~~He~~] shall be at  
14 least thirty years of age, a citizen of the United States, and shall  
15 have resided in this State at least five years immediately  
16 preceding the [~~his~~] election.

17 SECTION 2. Section 16(a), Article IV, Texas Constitution,  
18 is amended to read as follows:

19 (a) There shall also be a Lieutenant Governor, who shall be  
20 chosen at every election for Governor by the same voters, in the  
21 same manner, [~~continue in office for the same time,~~] and possess the  
22 same qualifications. The voters shall distinguish for whom they  
23 vote as Governor and for whom as Lieutenant Governor. The  
24 Lieutenant Governor shall hold office for a term of four years. The

1 Lieutenant Governor shall take office following the election, at 10  
2 a.m. on the day preceding the day set by law for the convening of the  
3 regular session of the legislature, and shall serve thereafter for  
4 the full term of years to which elected.

5 SECTION 3. The following temporary provision is added to  
6 the Texas Constitution:

7 TEMPORARY PROVISION. (a) This temporary provision applies  
8 to the constitutional amendment proposed by the 85th Legislature,  
9 Regular Session, 2017, providing for the governor's and lieutenant  
10 governor's terms of office to begin the day preceding the day the  
11 regular legislative session convenes.

12 (b) The amendments to Sections 4 and 16(a), Article IV, of  
13 this constitution apply to a person elected to the office of  
14 governor or lieutenant governor for a term beginning on or after  
15 January 1, 2019.

16 (c) This temporary provision expires January 1, 2020.

17 SECTION 4. (a) This proposed constitutional amendment  
18 shall be submitted to the voters at an election to be held November  
19 7, 2017, only if the secretary of state certifies that an enactment  
20 of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session:

21 (1) provides for the canvass of election returns for  
22 the offices of governor and lieutenant governor by the attorney  
23 general; and

24 (2) was not vetoed by the governor and becomes law  
25 contingent on adoption of this constitutional amendment by the  
26 voters.

27 (b) If the secretary of state does not make a certification

1 under Subsection (a) of this section, this resolution has no  
2 effect.

3 (c) If the election on this amendment is held, the ballot  
4 shall be printed to permit voting for or against the proposition:  
5 "The constitutional amendment to provide for the governor's and  
6 lieutenant governor's terms of office to begin at 10 a.m. on the day  
7 preceding the day the regular legislative session convenes."