

By: Lowe

H.J.R. No. 170

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment providing for the statewide
2 election of the speaker of the house of representatives by the
3 voters of this state.

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

5 SECTION 1. Article III, Texas Constitution, is amended by
6 adding Section 9-a to read as follows:

7 Sec. 9-a. (a) The Speaker of the House of Representatives
8 shall be elected by the qualified voters of this state at the time
9 and places of election for members of the Legislature. A person
10 elected as Speaker serves a term of two years expiring when the
11 Legislature for which the Speaker was elected ends.

12 (b) A person may not serve as Speaker of the House unless the
13 person is qualified to be elected or to serve as a member of the
14 House of Representatives.

15 (c) The Speaker of the House:

16 (1) is ineligible for any office or position for which
17 a member of the Legislature is ineligible; and

18 (2) may not be a member of the Senate or the House of
19 Representatives.

20 (d) The returns of the election for Speaker of the House
21 shall be transmitted to the Speaker pro tempore of the House in the
22 manner provided by law for the transmission of the returns for the
23 office of Governor and Lieutenant Governor to the Speaker. The
24 Legislature shall canvass the returns, and the person elected as

1 Speaker shall be determined in the manner provided by Section 3,
2 Article IV, of this constitution for the office of Lieutenant
3 Governor. The canvass of the returns and declaration of election
4 for the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor under Section
5 3, Article IV, may not be conducted until a Speaker is elected and
6 assumes office under this subsection.

7 (e) A vacancy in the office of Speaker of the House shall be
8 filled in the same manner as a vacancy in the Legislature. The
9 Speaker pro tempore of the House of Representatives serves as
10 Speaker until the vacancy is filled. The election of a member of
11 the Legislature to fill a vacancy in the office of Speaker creates a
12 vacancy in that member's legislative seat.

13 (f) The initial election for Speaker of the House shall be
14 held in 2026 for a term that begins when the person elected at that
15 election is declared elected as Speaker when the Legislature
16 convenes in 2027. This subsection expires January 1, 2030.

17 SECTION 2. Section 9(b), Article III, Texas Constitution,
18 is repealed.

19 SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
20 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 4, 2025.
21 The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the
22 proposition: "The constitutional amendment providing for the
23 statewide election of the speaker of the house of representatives
24 by the voters of this state."