

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM ELECTION

APRIL 3, 2018

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the several towns, villages, cities, wards and election districts of the State of Wisconsin, on Tuesday, April 3, 2018, the following question will be submitted to a vote of the people pursuant to law:

2017 ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION 7

To amend section 1 of article VI, section 3 of article VI and sections 7 and 8 of article X; and *to create* section 17 of article XIV of the constitution; **relating to:** deleting from the constitution the office of state treasurer (second consideration).

Whereas, the 2015 legislature in regular session considered a proposed amendment to the constitution in 2015 Assembly Joint Resolution 5, which became 2015 Enrolled Joint Resolution 7, and agreed to it by a majority of the members elected to each of the two houses, which proposed amendment reads as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1 of article VI of the constitution is amended to read:

[Article VI] Section 1. The qualified electors of this state, ~~at the times and places of choosing the members of the legislature,~~ shall in 1970 and every 4 years thereafter elect a secretary of state, ~~treasurer~~ and an attorney general ~~who shall hold their offices for 4 years~~ 4- year terms.

SECTION 2. Section 3 of article VI of the constitution is amended to read:

[Article VI] Section 3. The powers, duties, and compensation of the ~~treasurer and~~ attorney general shall be prescribed by law.

SECTION 3. Sections 7 and 8 of article X of the constitution are amended to read:

[Article X] Section 7. The lieutenant governor, secretary of state, ~~treasurer~~ and attorney general, shall constitute a board of commissioners for the sale of the school and university lands and for the investment of the funds arising therefrom. Any two of said commissioners shall be a quorum for the transaction of all business pertaining to the duties of their office.

Section 8. Provision shall be made by law for the sale of all school and university lands after they shall have been appraised; and when any portion of such lands shall be sold and the purchase money shall not be paid at the time of the sale, the commissioners shall take security by mortgage upon the lands sold for the sum remaining unpaid, with ~~seven per cent~~ 7 percent interest thereon, payable annually ~~at the office of the treasurer~~ as provided by law. The commissioners shall be authorized to execute a good and sufficient conveyance to all purchasers of such lands, and to discharge any mortgages taken as security, when the sum due thereon shall have been paid. The commissioners shall have power to withhold from sale any portion of such lands when they shall deem it expedient, and shall invest all moneys arising from the sale of such lands, as well as all other university and school funds, in such manner as the legislature shall provide, and shall give such security for the faithful performance of their duties as may be required by law.

SECTION 4. Section 17 of article XIV of the constitution is created to read:

[Article XIV] Section 17. The state treasurer holding office on the date of

ratification of the 2015- 17 amendment providing for the deletion of that office from the constitution shall continue to hold that office until the first Monday of January in 2019. Any vacancy in the office occurring before that date shall be filled in the manner provided by law.

SECTION 5. Numbering of new provisions. If another constitutional amendment ratified by the people creates the number of any provision created in this joint resolution, the chief of the legislative reference bureau shall determine the sequencing and the numbering of the provisions whose numbers conflict and adjust any cross- references thereto.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the foregoing proposed amendment to the constitution is agreed to by the 2017 legislature; and, be it further

Resolved, That the foregoing proposed amendment to the constitution be submitted to a vote of the people at the election to be held on the first Tuesday in April 2018; and, be it further

Resolved, That the question concerning ratification of the foregoing proposed amendment to the constitution be stated on the ballot as follows:

QUESTION 1: “Elimination of state treasurer. Shall sections 1 and 3 of article VI and sections 7 and 8 of article X of the constitution be amended, and section 17 of article XIV of the constitution be created, to eliminate the office of state treasurer from the constitution and to replace the state treasurer with the lieutenant governor as a member of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands?”

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Article VI of the Wisconsin Constitution provides for the election of a state treasurer every four years. Wis. Const. Art. VI, § 1. The Constitution spells out only one duty for the Treasurer: to serve as one of three members on the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, which is charged with the sale of school and university lands and with the investment of funds arising from such sales. Wis. Const. Art. X, § 7. The other two members of that Board are the Attorney General and Secretary of State.

The referendum question proposes to eliminate the constitutional office of Treasurer. To fill the Treasurer’s position on the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, the Lieutenant Governor would serve as the third member of that Board.

A “yes” vote on this question would eliminate the constitutional office of the Treasurer. It would replace the Treasurer with the Lieutenant Governor as a member of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands.

A “no” vote would retain the constitutional office of the Treasurer under Article VI. The Treasurer would also continue to serve as a member of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands.

DONE in the County of Dane,
this 12th day of March, 2018.

Scott McDonell, Dane County Clerk