

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 6

2 **53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT RESOLUTION

11 PROPOSING TO AMEND ARTICLE 7 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO
12 TO ALLOW VOTERS TO CAST A VOTE IN A VOTER-NOMINATION PRIMARY
13 ELECTION PROCESS FOR ANY CANDIDATE FOR A CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE;
14 A STATE EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE OR JUDICIAL OFFICE; OR A COUNTY
15 OFFICE WITHOUT LIMITATION BASED ON PARTY PREFERENCE OR
16 AFFILIATION OF EITHER THE VOTER OR THE CANDIDATE.

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18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

19 SECTION 1. It is proposed to amend Article 7 of the
20 constitution of New Mexico by adding a new section to read:

21 "A. All registered qualified electors, regardless
22 of party preference or affiliation, who are otherwise qualified
23 to vote for an office shall be allowed to vote for the
24 candidate of their choice in a voter-nomination primary
25 election process in which all candidates, regardless of party

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1 preference or affiliation, for a partisan office specified in
2 Subsection C of this section, are listed on the ballot. Only
3 the names of the two candidates, or joint candidates in the
4 case of the governor and lieutenant governor, receiving the
5 most votes for an office shall appear on the general election
6 ballot.

7 B. A candidate for a partisan office subject to the
8 provisions of this section may state a party preference, or
9 state "prefer unaffiliated", on the candidate's declaration of
10 candidacy, which preference shall appear on the primary
11 election ballot and shall remain the same for a candidate who
12 qualifies for the general election ballot. Selection of a
13 party preference by a candidate shall not constitute or imply
14 endorsement of the candidate by the party so designated, and no
15 party shall have the right to have the name of its preferred
16 candidate for an office subject to the provisions of this
17 section appear on the ballot in the general election unless
18 that candidate has qualified in accordance with the provisions
19 of Subsection A of this section.

20 C. The following partisan elective offices are
21 subject to the provisions of this section:

22 (1) United States senator and United States
23 representative;

24 (2) all state elective offices, including the
25 offices of state representative and state senator; and

1 (3) all county elective offices, except those
2 offices for which a county home rule charter provides
3 otherwise."

4 SECTION 2. The amendment proposed by this resolution
5 shall be submitted to the people for their approval or
6 rejection at the next general election or at any special
7 election prior to that date that may be called for that
8 purpose.

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