

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 SENATE JOINT
4 RESOLUTION 8

By: Hamilton

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Joint Resolution directing the Secretary of State
8 to refer to the people for their approval or
9 rejection a proposed amendment to the Oklahoma
10 Constitution by adding a new Section 9C to Article V;
11 modifying apportionment of state senate districts;
12 requiring certain considerations; maintaining four-
13 year terms for state senators; providing ballot
14 title; and directing filing.

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
16 1ST SESSION OF THE 59TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

17 SECTION 1. The Secretary of State shall refer to the people for
18 their approval or rejection, as and in the manner provided by law,
19 the following proposed amendment to the Oklahoma Constitution by
20 adding a new Section 9C of Article V of the Oklahoma Constitution to
21 read as follows:

22 Section 9C. A. The state shall be apportioned into forty-eight
23 senatorial districts in the following manner: the nineteen most
24 populous counties, as determined by the most recent Federal
25 Decennial Census, shall constitute nineteen senatorial districts
26 with one senator to be nominated and elected from each district; the

1 fifty-eight less populous counties shall be joined into twenty-nine
2 two-county districts with one senator to be nominated and elected
3 from each of the two-county districts. In apportioning the State
4 Senate, consideration shall be given to population, compactness,
5 area, political units, historical precedents, economic and political
6 interests, contiguous territory, and other major factors, to the
7 extent feasible.

8 B. Each senatorial district, whether single county or multi-
9 county, shall be entitled to one senator, who shall hold office for
10 four years; provided that any senator, serving at the time of the
11 adoption of this amendment, shall serve the full time for which he
12 or she was elected. Vitalization of senatorial districts shall
13 provide for one-half of the senators to be elected at each general
14 election.

15 SECTION 2. The Ballot Title for the proposed Constitutional
16 amendment as set forth in SECTION 1 of this resolution shall be in
17 the following form:

18 BALLOT TITLE

19 Legislative Referendum No. _____ State Question No. _____

20 THE GIST OF THE PROPOSITION IS AS FOLLOWS:

21 This measure would amend the Oklahoma Constitution by adding a
22 new Section 9C to Article 5. The measure would change the way
23 state senate districts are apportioned. The nineteen most
24 populous counties would be individual districts that would each

1 have one senator. The fifty-eight remaining counties would join
2 into twenty-nine two-county districts that would each have one
3 senator. It maintains four-year terms for state senators.

4 SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?

5 FOR THE PROPOSAL - YES _____

6 AGAINST THE PROPOSAL - NO _____

7 SECTION 3. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall,
8 immediately after the passage of this resolution, prepare and file
9 one copy thereof, including the Ballot Title set forth in SECTION 2
10 hereof, with the Secretary of State and one copy with the Attorney
11 General.

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