



General Assembly

***Senate Joint
Resolution No. 57***

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 6233



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE
CONSTITUTION TO MAKE REFERENCES TO INDIVIDUALS GENDER-
NEUTRAL.***

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 Section 1. That the following be proposed as an amendment to the
2 Constitution of the State, which, when approved and adopted in the
3 manner provided by the Constitution, shall, to all intents and purposes,
4 become a part thereof:

5 Section 1 of article first of the Constitution is amended to read as
6 follows:

7 Sec. 1. All [men] persons when they form a social compact, are equal
8 in rights; and no [man] person or set of [men] persons are entitled to
9 exclusive public emoluments or privileges from the community.

10 Section 4 of article first of the Constitution is amended to read as
11 follows:

12 Sec. 4. Every citizen may freely speak, write and publish [his] such
13 citizen's sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of
14 that liberty.

15 Subsection a. of article twenty-ninth of the amendments to the
16 Constitution is amended to read as follows:

17 a. In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall have a right to be
18 heard by [himself] the accused's self and by counsel; to be informed of
19 the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted by the witnesses
20 against [him] the accused; to have compulsory process to obtain
21 witnesses in [his] behalf of the accused; to be released on bail upon
22 sufficient security, except in capital offenses, where the proof is evident
23 or the presumption great; and in all prosecutions by information, to a
24 speedy, public trial by an impartial jury. No person shall be compelled
25 to give evidence against [himself] such person's self, nor be deprived of
26 life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor shall excessive
27 bail be required nor excessive fines imposed. No person shall be held to
28 answer for any crime, punishable by death or life imprisonment, unless
29 upon probable cause shown at a hearing in accordance with procedures
30 prescribed by law, except in the armed forces, or in the militia when in
31 actual service in time of war or public danger.

32 Section 10 of article first of the Constitution is amended to read as
33 follows:

34 Sec. 10. All courts shall be open, and every person, for an injury done
35 to [him in his] such person, such person's property or such person's
36 reputation, shall have remedy by due course of law, and right and
37 justice administered without sale, denial or delay.

38 Section 15 of article first of the Constitution is amended to read as
39 follows:

40 Sec. 15. Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of [himself]
41 such citizen and the state.

42 Article fourth of the amendments to the Constitution is amended to
43 read as follows:

44 The right of trial by jury shall remain inviolate, the number of such
45 jurors, which shall not be less than six, to be established by law; but no
46 person shall, for a capital offense, be tried by a jury of less than twelve
47 jurors without [his] such person's consent. In all civil and criminal
48 actions tried by a jury, the parties shall have the right to challenge jurors
49 peremptorily, the number of such challenges to be established by law.
50 The right to question each juror individually by counsel shall be
51 inviolate.

52 Article twenty-first of the amendments to the Constitution is
53 amended to read as follows:

54 No person shall be denied the equal protection of the law nor be
55 subjected to segregation or discrimination in the exercise or enjoyment
56 of [his or her] such person's civil or political rights because of religion,
57 race, color, ancestry, national origin, sex or physical or mental disability.

58 Article third of the amendments to the Constitution is amended to
59 read as follows:

60 There shall be a regular session of the general assembly on the
61 Wednesday following the first Monday of January in the odd-numbered
62 years and on the Wednesday following the first Monday of February in
63 the even-numbered years, and at such other times as the general
64 assembly shall judge necessary; but the person administering the office
65 of governor may, on special emergencies, convene the general assembly
66 at any other time. All regular and special sessions of the general
67 assembly shall be held at Hartford, but the person administering the
68 office of governor may, in case of special emergency, convene the
69 assembly at any other place in the state. The general assembly shall
70 adjourn each regular session in the odd-numbered years not later than
71 the first Wednesday after the first Monday in June and in the even-
72 numbered years not later than the first Wednesday after the first
73 Monday in May and shall adjourn each special session upon completion

74 of its business. If any bill passed by any regular or special session or any
75 appropriation item described in Section 16 of Article Fourth has been
76 disapproved by the governor prior to its adjournment, and has not been
77 reconsidered by the assembly, or is so disapproved after such
78 adjournment, the secretary of the state shall reconvene the general
79 assembly on the second Monday after the last day on which the
80 governor is authorized to transmit or has transmitted every bill to the
81 secretary with [his] the governor's objections pursuant to Section 15 of
82 Article Fourth of this constitution, whichever occurs first; provided if
83 such Monday falls on a legal holiday the general assembly shall be
84 reconvened on the next following day. The reconvened session shall be
85 for the sole purpose of reconsidering and, if the assembly so desires,
86 repassing such bills. The general assembly shall adjourn sine die not
87 later than three days following its reconvening. In the even year session
88 the general assembly shall consider no business other than budgetary,
89 revenue and financial matters, bills and resolutions raised by
90 committees of the general assembly and those matters certified in
91 writing by the speaker of the house of representatives and president pro
92 tempore of the senate to be of an emergency nature.

93 Section 1 of article fifteenth of the amendments to the Constitution is
94 amended to read as follows:

95 The senate shall consist of not less than thirty and not more than fifty
96 members, each of whom shall have attained the age of eighteen and be
97 an elector residing in the senatorial district from which [he] such elector
98 is elected. Each senatorial district shall be contiguous as to territory and
99 shall elect no more than one senator.

100 Section 2 of article fifteenth of the amendments to the Constitution is
101 amended to read as follows:

102 The house of representatives shall consist of not less than one
103 hundred twenty-five and not more than two hundred twenty-five
104 members, each of whom shall have attained the age of eighteen years
105 and be an elector residing in the assembly district from which [he] such

106 elector is elected. Each assembly district shall be contiguous as to
107 territory and shall elect no more than one representative. For the
108 purpose of forming assembly districts no town shall be divided except
109 for the purpose of forming assembly districts wholly within the town.

110 Section 2 of article thirtieth of the amendments to the Constitution is
111 amended to read as follows:

112 a. The assembly and senatorial districts and congressional districts as
113 now established by law shall continue until the regular session of the
114 general assembly next after the completion of the taking of the next
115 census of the United States. On or before the fifteenth day of February
116 next following the year in which the decennial census of the United
117 States is taken, the general assembly shall appoint a reapportionment
118 committee consisting of four members of the senate, two who shall be
119 designated by the president pro tempore of the senate and two who
120 shall be designated by the minority leader of the senate, and four
121 members of the house of representatives, two who shall be designated
122 by the speaker of the house of representatives and two who shall be
123 designated by the minority leader of the house of representatives,
124 provided there are members of no more than two political parties in
125 either the senate or the house of representatives. In the event that there
126 are members of more than two political parties in a house of the general
127 assembly, all members of that house belonging to the parties other than
128 that of the president pro tempore of the senate or the speaker of the
129 house of representatives, as the case may be, shall select one of their
130 number, who shall designate two members of the committee in lieu of
131 the designation by the minority leader of that house. Such committee
132 shall advise the general assembly on matters of apportionment. Upon
133 the filing of a report of such committee with the clerk of the house of
134 representatives and the clerk of the senate, the speaker of the house of
135 representatives and the president pro tempore of the senate shall, if the
136 general assembly is not in regular session, convene the general assembly
137 in special session for the sole purpose of adopting a plan of districting.
138 Upon the request of the speaker of the house of representatives and the
139 president pro tempore of the senate, the secretary of the state shall give

140 notice of such special session by mailing a true copy of the call of such
141 special session, by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested,
142 to each member of the house of representatives and of the senate at [his
143 or her] such member's address as it appears upon the records of said
144 secretary not less than ten nor more than fifteen days prior to the date
145 of convening of such special session or by causing a true copy of the call
146 to be delivered to each member by a constable, state policeman or
147 indifferent person at least twenty-four hours prior to the time of
148 convening of such special session. Such general assembly shall, upon
149 roll call, by a yea vote of at least two-thirds of the membership of each
150 house, adopt such plan of districting as is necessary to preserve a proper
151 apportionment of representation in accordance with the principles
152 recited in this article. Thereafter the general assembly shall decennially
153 at its next regular session or special session called for the purpose of
154 adopting a plan of districting following the completion of the taking of
155 the census of the United States, upon roll call, by a yea vote of at least
156 two-thirds of the membership of each house, adopt such plan of
157 districting as is necessary in accordance with the provisions of this
158 article.

159 Section 11 of article third of the Constitution is amended to read as
160 follows:

161 Sec. 11. No member of the general assembly shall, during the term for
162 which [he] such member is elected, hold or accept any appointive
163 position or office in the judicial or executive department of the state
164 government, or in the courts of the political subdivisions of the state, or
165 in the government of any county. No member of congress, no person
166 holding any office under the authority of the United States and no
167 person holding any office in the judicial or executive department of the
168 state government or in the government of any county shall be a member
169 of the general assembly during [his] such member's or person's
170 continuance in such office.

171 Section 9 of article fourth of the Constitution is amended to read as
172 follows:

173 Sec. 9. [He] The governor may require information in writing from
174 the officers in the executive department, on any subject relating to the
175 duties of their respective offices.

176 Section 10 of article fourth of the Constitution is amended to read as
177 follows:

178 Sec. 10. The governor, in case of a disagreement between the two
179 houses of the general assembly, respecting the time of adjournment,
180 may adjourn them to such time as [he] the governor shall think proper,
181 not beyond the day of the next stated session.

182 Section 11 of article fourth of the Constitution is amended to read as
183 follows:

184 Sec. 11. [He] The governor shall, from time to time, give to the general
185 assembly, information of the state of the government, and recommend
186 to their consideration such measures as [he] the governor shall deem
187 expedient.

188 Section 12 of article fourth of the Constitution is amended to read as
189 follows:

190 Sec. 12. [He] The governor shall take care that the laws be faithfully
191 executed.

192 Section 15 of article fourth of the Constitution is amended to read as
193 follows:

194 Sec. 15. Each bill which shall have passed both houses of the general
195 assembly shall be presented to the governor. Bills may be presented to
196 the governor after the adjournment of the general assembly, and the
197 general assembly may prescribe the time and method of performing all
198 ministerial acts necessary or incidental to the administration of this
199 section. If the governor shall approve a bill, [he] the governor shall sign
200 and transmit it to the secretary of the state, but if [he] the governor shall
201 disapprove, [he] the governor shall transmit it to the secretary with [his]
202 the governor's objections, and the secretary shall thereupon return the

203 bill with the governor's objections to the house in which it originated.
204 After the objections shall have been entered on its journal, such house
205 shall proceed to reconsider the bill. If, after such reconsideration, that
206 house shall again pass it, but by the approval of at least two-thirds of its
207 members, it shall be sent with the objections to the other house, which
208 shall also reconsider it. If approved by at least two-thirds of the
209 members of the second house, it shall be a law and be transmitted to the
210 secretary; but in such case the votes of each house shall be determined
211 by yeas and nays and the names of the members voting for and against
212 the bill shall be entered on the journal of each house respectively. In case
213 the governor shall not transmit the bill to the secretary, either with [his]
214 the governor's approval or with [his] the governor's objections, within
215 five calendar days, Sundays and legal holidays excepted, after the same
216 shall have been presented to [him] the governor, it shall be a law at the
217 expiration of that period; except that, if the general assembly shall then
218 have adjourned any regular or special session, the bill shall be a law
219 unless the governor shall, within fifteen calendar days after the same
220 has been presented to [him] the governor, transmit it to the secretary
221 with [his] the governor's objections, in which case it shall not be a law
222 unless such bill is reconsidered and repassed by the general assembly
223 by at least a two-thirds vote of the members of each house of the general
224 assembly at the time of its reconvening.

225 Section 16 of article fourth of the Constitution is amended to read as
226 follows:

227 Sec. 16. The governor shall have power to disapprove of any item or
228 items of any bill making appropriations of money embracing distinct
229 items while at the same time approving the remainder of the bill, and
230 the part or parts of the bill so approved shall become effective and the
231 item or items of appropriations so disapproved shall not take effect
232 unless the same are separately reconsidered and repassed in accordance
233 with the rules and limitations prescribed for the passage of bills over the
234 executive veto. In all cases in which the governor shall exercise the right
235 of disapproval hereby conferred, [he] the governor shall append to the
236 bill at the time of signing it a statement of the item or items disapproved,

237 together with [his] the governor's reasons for such disapproval, and
238 transmit the bill and such appended statement to the secretary of the
239 state. If the general assembly be then in session, [he] the governor shall
240 forthwith cause a copy of such statement to be delivered to the house in
241 which the bill originated for reconsideration of the disapproved items
242 in conformity with the rules prescribed for legislative action in respect
243 to bills which have received executive disapproval.

244 Section 17 of article fourth of the Constitution is amended to read as
245 follows:

246 Sec. 17. The lieutenant-governor shall by virtue of [his] such office, be
247 president of the senate, and have, when in committee of the whole, a
248 right to debate, and when the senate is equally divided, to give the
249 casting vote.

250 Article twenty-second of the amendments to the Constitution is
251 amended to read as follows:

252 a. In case of the death, resignation, refusal to serve or removal from
253 office of the governor, the lieutenant-governor shall, upon taking the
254 oath of office of governor, be governor of the state until another is
255 chosen at the next regular election for governor and is duly qualified.

256 b. In case of the impeachment of the governor or of [his] the
257 governor's absence from the state, the lieutenant-governor shall exercise
258 the powers and authority and perform the duties appertaining to the
259 office of governor until, if the governor has been impeached, [he] the
260 governor is acquitted or, if absent, [he] the governor has returned.

261 c. Whenever the governor transmits to the lieutenant-governor [his]
262 the governor's written declaration that [he] the governor is unable to
263 exercise the powers and perform the duties of [his] the office of
264 governor, and until the governor transmits to the lieutenant-governor a
265 written declaration to the contrary, the lieutenant-governor shall
266 exercise the powers and authority and perform the duties appertaining
267 to the office of governor as acting governor.

268 d. In the absence of a written declaration of incapacity by the
269 governor, whenever the lieutenant-governor or a majority of the
270 members of the council on gubernatorial incapacity transmits to the
271 council on gubernatorial incapacity a written declaration that the
272 governor is unable to exercise the powers and perform the duties of [his]
273 the office of governor, the council shall convene within forty-eight hours
274 after the receipt of such written declaration to determine if the governor
275 is unable to exercise the powers and perform the duties of [his] the office
276 of governor. If the council, within fourteen days after it is required to
277 convene, determines by two-thirds vote that the governor is unable to
278 exercise the powers and perform the duties of [his] the office of
279 governor, it shall transmit a written declaration to that effect to the
280 president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the house of
281 representatives and to the lieutenant-governor and the lieutenant-
282 governor, upon receipt of such declaration, shall exercise the powers
283 and authority and discharge the duties appertaining to the office of the
284 governor as acting governor; otherwise, the governor shall continue to
285 exercise the powers and discharge the duties of [his] the office of
286 governor. Upon receipt by the president pro tempore of the senate and
287 the speaker of the house of representatives of such a written declaration
288 from the council, the general assembly shall, in accordance with its
289 rules, decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that
290 purpose if not in session. If the general assembly, within twenty-one
291 days after receipt of the written declaration or, if the general assembly
292 is not in session, within twenty-one days after the general assembly is
293 required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of each house that
294 the governor is unable to exercise the powers and discharge the duties
295 of [his] the office of governor, the lieutenant-governor shall continue to
296 exercise the powers and authority and perform the duties appertaining
297 to the office of governor; otherwise, the governor shall resume the
298 powers and duties of [his] the office of governor.

299 e. In the absence of a written declaration of incapacity by the governor
300 and in an emergency, when the governor is unable to exercise the
301 powers and perform the duties of [his] the office of governor and the

302 business of the state requires the immediate exercise of those powers
303 and performance of those duties, the lieutenant-governor shall transmit
304 to the council on gubernatorial incapacity a written declaration to that
305 effect and thereupon shall exercise the powers and authority and
306 discharge the duties appertaining to the office of governor as acting
307 governor. The council shall convene or the members of the council shall
308 otherwise communicate with each other collectively within twenty-four
309 hours after the receipt of such written declaration to determine if the
310 governor is unable to exercise the powers and perform the duties of [his]
311 the office of governor. If the council, within fourteen days after it is
312 required to convene, determines by two-thirds vote that the governor is
313 unable to exercise the powers and perform the duties of [his] the office
314 of governor, it shall transmit a written declaration to that effect to the
315 president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the house of
316 representatives and to the lieutenant-governor and the lieutenant-
317 governor shall continue to exercise the powers and authority and
318 perform the duties appertaining to the office of governor as acting
319 governor; otherwise, the governor shall resume the powers and duties
320 of [his] the office of governor. Upon receipt by the president pro
321 tempore of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives of
322 such a written declaration from the council, the general assembly shall,
323 in accordance with its rules, decide the issue, assembling within forty-
324 eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the general assembly,
325 within twenty-one days after receipt of the written declaration or, if the
326 general assembly is not in session, within twenty-one days after the
327 general assembly is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote
328 of each house that the governor is unable to exercise the powers and
329 discharge the duties of [his] the office of governor, the lieutenant-
330 governor shall continue to exercise the powers and authority and
331 perform the duties appertaining to the office of governor; otherwise, the
332 governor shall resume the powers and duties of [his] the office of
333 governor.

334 f. Whenever the governor transmits to the president pro tempore of
335 the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives [his] the

336 governor's written declaration that no inability exists, [he] the governor
337 shall resume the powers and duties of [his] the office of governor upon
338 the determination by a majority vote of each house of the general
339 assembly, in accordance with its rules, that [he] the governor is able to
340 exercise the powers and perform the duties of [his] the office of
341 governor.

342 g. There shall be a council on gubernatorial incapacity, the
343 membership, procedures and terms of office of the members of which
344 the general assembly shall establish by law.

345 h. The supreme court shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction to
346 adjudicate disputes or questions arising under this section.

347 Section 19 of article fourth of Constitution is amended to read as
348 follows:

349 Sec. 19. If the lieutenant-governor succeeds to the office of governor,
350 or if the lieutenant-governor dies, resigns, refuses to serve or is removed
351 from office, the president pro tempore of the senate shall, upon taking
352 the oath of office of lieutenant-governor, be lieutenant-governor of the
353 state until another is chosen at the next regular election for lieutenant-
354 governor and is duly qualified. Within fifteen days of the administration
355 of such oath the senate, if the general assembly is in session, shall elect
356 one of its members president pro tempore. In case of the inability of the
357 lieutenant-governor to exercise the powers and perform the duties of
358 [his] the office of lieutenant-governor or in case of [his] the lieutenant-
359 governor's impeachment or absence from the state, the president pro
360 tempore of the senate shall exercise the powers and authority and
361 perform the duties appertaining to the office of lieutenant-governor
362 until the disability is removed or, if the lieutenant-governor has been
363 impeached, [he] the lieutenant-governor is acquitted or, if absent, [he]
364 the lieutenant-governor has returned.

365 Section 22 of article fourth of the Constitution is amended to read as
366 follows:

367 Sec. 22. The treasurer shall receive all moneys belonging to the state,
368 and disburse the same only as [he] the treasurer may be directed by law.
369 [He] The treasurer shall pay no warrant, or order for the disbursement
370 of public money, until the same has been registered in the office of the
371 comptroller.

372 Section 23 of article fourth of the Constitution is amended to read as
373 follows:

374 Sec. 23. The secretary of the state shall have the safe keeping and
375 custody of the public records and documents, and particularly of the
376 acts, resolutions and orders of the general assembly, and record the
377 same; and perform all such duties as shall be prescribed by law. [He]
378 The secretary of the state shall be the keeper of the seal of the state,
379 which shall not be altered.

380 Section 24 of article fourth of the Constitution is amended to read as
381 follows:

382 Sec. 24. The comptroller shall adjust and settle all public accounts and
383 demands, except grants and orders of the general assembly. [He] The
384 comptroller shall prescribe the mode of keeping and rendering all public
385 accounts. [He] The comptroller shall, ex officio, be one of the auditors of
386 the accounts of the treasurer. The general assembly may assign to [him]
387 the comptroller other duties in relation to [his] the comptroller's office,
388 and to that of the treasurer, and shall prescribe the manner in which
389 [his] the comptroller's duties shall be performed.

390 Section 2 of article eight of the amendments to the Constitution is
391 amended to read as follows:

392 No judge shall be eligible to hold [his] such judge's office after [he]
393 such judge shall arrive at the age of seventy years, except that a chief
394 justice or judge of the supreme court, a judge of the superior court, or a
395 judge of the court of common pleas, who has attained the age of seventy
396 years and has become a state referee may exercise, as shall be prescribed
397 by law, the powers of the superior court or court of common pleas on

398 matters referred to [him] such justice or judge, as applicable, as a state
399 referee.

400 Article ninth of the amendments to the Constitution is amended to
401 read as follows:

402 Every citizen of the United States who has attained the age of
403 eighteen years, who is a bona fide resident of the town in which [he]
404 such citizen seeks to be admitted as an elector and who takes such oath,
405 if any, as may be prescribed by law, shall be qualified to be an elector.

406 Article thirty-first of the amendments to the Constitution is amended
407 to read as follows:

408 Any citizen who will have attained the age of eighteen years on or
409 before the day of a regular election may apply for admission as an
410 elector at such times and in such manner as may be prescribed by law,
411 and, if qualified, shall become an elector on the day of [his or her] such
412 citizen's eighteenth birthday. Any citizen who has not yet attained the
413 age of eighteen years but who will have attained the age of eighteen
414 years on or before the day of a regular election, who is otherwise
415 qualified to be an elector and who has applied for admission as an
416 elector in such manner as may be prescribed by law, may vote in any
417 primary election, in such manner as may be prescribed by law, held for
418 such regular election.

419 Article seventh of the Constitution is amended to read as follows:

420 It being the right of all [men] persons to worship the Supreme Being,
421 the Great Creator and Preserver of the Universe, and to render that
422 worship in a mode consistent with the dictates of their consciences, no
423 person shall by law be compelled to join or support, nor be classed or
424 associated with, any congregation, church or religious association. No
425 preference shall be given by law to any religious society or
426 denomination in the state. Each shall have and enjoy the same and equal
427 powers, rights and privileges, and may support and maintain the
428 ministers or teachers of its society or denomination, and may build and

429 repair houses for public worship.

430 Article nineteenth of the amendments to the Constitution is amended
431 to read as follows:

432 Except as provided in this section, neither the state nor any political
433 subdivision of the state shall pay or grant to any elected official of the
434 state or any political subdivision of the state, any compensation greater
435 than the amount of compensation set at the beginning of such official's
436 term of office for the office which such official holds or increase the pay
437 or compensation of any public contractor above the amount specified in
438 the contract. The provisions of this section shall not apply to elected
439 officials in towns in which the legislative body is the town meeting. The
440 compensation of an elected official of a political subdivision of the state
441 whose term of office is four years or more may be increased once after
442 such official has completed two years of [his] such official's term by the
443 legislative body of such political subdivision. The term "compensation"
444 means, with respect to an elected official, such official's salary, exclusive
445 of reimbursement for necessary expenses or any other benefit to which
446 [his] such official's office would entitle [him] such official.

447 RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the
448 Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly
449 elected at the general election to be held on November 3, 2026, and
450 published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented
451 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 3, 2026,
452 whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the amendments
453 to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed amendment to be
454 used on the ballots at such election shall be "Shall the Constitution of the
455 State be amended to make all references to individuals gender-neutral?"

GAE *Joint Favorable*