129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Ensure That Voting Rights Belong Only to Citizens in Municipal or Other Local Elections

1   **Constitutional amendment. Resolved:** Two thirds of each branch of the
2   Legislature concurring, that the following amendment to the Constitution of Maine be
3   proposed:

4   **Constitution, Art. II, §1** is amended to read:

5   **Section 1. Qualifications of electors; written ballot; military servicemen;**
6   **students.** Only a citizen of the United States may vote in a municipal or other local
7   election. Every citizen of the United States of the age of 18 years and upwards, excepting
8   persons under guardianship for reasons of mental illness, having his or her residence
9   established in this State, shall be an elector for Governor, Senators and Representatives,
10   and local or municipal office in the city, town or plantation where his or her residence has
11   been established, if he or she continues to reside in this State; and the elections shall be
12   by written ballot. But persons in the military, naval or marine service of the United
13   States, or this State, shall not be considered as having obtained such established residence
14   by being stationed in any garrison, barrack or military place, in any city, town or
15   plantation; nor shall the residence of a student at any seminary of learning entitle the
16   student to the right of suffrage in the city, town or plantation where such seminary is
17   established. No person, however, shall be deemed to have lost residence by reason of the
18   person's absence from the state in the military service of the United States, or of this
19   State.

20   **Indians.** Every Indian, residing on tribal reservations and otherwise qualified, shall
21   be an elector in all county, state and national elections.

22   **Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective date.**
23   **Resolved:** That the municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their
24   respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for
25   holding a statewide election, at a statewide election held in the month of November
26   following the passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment
27   proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

28   "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to permit only
29   citizens of the United States to vote in municipal or other local
30   elections?"

31   The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question
32   and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within the corresponding
33   square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and
34   declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of
35   State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall
36   review the returns. If it appears that a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of the
37   amendment, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay and the amendment
38   becomes part of the Constitution of Maine on the date of the proclamation.

39   **Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Resolved:** That the Secretary of State
40   shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies
41   of this resolution necessary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

1   **SUMMARY**

2   This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to specify that only a
3   person who is a citizen of the United States may vote in a municipal or other local
4   election.