

CHAPTER 127.

[S. S. B. 147]

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED ON QUALIFICATION OF VOTERS.

AN ACT providing for the amendment of section 1 of article VI of the constitution of the State of Washington, relating to the qualification of voters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Proposal for amendment of § 1, art. VI, of state constitution.

SECTION 1. That at the general election to be held in this state on the Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in November, 1916, there shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the state, for their adoption and approval or rejection, an amendment to section 1 of article VI of the Constitution of the State of Washington, so that the same shall when amended, read as follows:

ARTICLE VI.

Qualifications of electors enumerated.

Section 1. All persons of the age of twenty-one years or over, possessing the following qualifications, shall be entitled to vote at all elections: They shall be citizens of the United States; they shall have lived in the state one year, and in the county ninety days, and in the city, town, ward or precinct thirty days immediately preceding the election at which they offer to vote; they shall be able to read and speak the English language: *Provided*, That no person shall be qualified or entitled to vote in respect to or upon any question or proposition to incur or not to incur any debt or obligation, or to borrow money or issue any bond or obligation, or to ratify or validate any debt, bond or obligation, or to authorize the purchase, sale, mortgage or pledge of property, revenue or income by or of the state, or any municipal corporation, city, town or district, unless in addition to the qualifications above prescribed he or she shall at the date of his or her registration be the separate owner of, or as husband and wife have community title in, property upon the tax-roll of the municipal corporation or taxing district in

Voting on propositions to incur debt restricted to taxpayers.

which such question or proposition is to be voted upon, and upon which property a tax has been paid, or shall be payable, during the calendar year in which such question or proposition is to be voted upon. No person shall be denied the elective franchise on account of sex, nor shall this amendment affect the right of franchise of any person who is now a qualified elector of this state except in respect to questions or propositions mentioned in the foregoing proviso. Indians not taxed shall never be allowed the elective franchise. The legislative authority shall enact laws defining the manner of ascertaining the qualifications of voters as to their ability to read and speak the English language, providing for the registration of voters generally and as property owners, and providing for punishment of persons voting or registering in violation of the provision of this section.

Indians.

SEC. 2. The secretary of state shall cause the amendment proposed in section 1 of this act to be published for three months next preceding said election in some weekly newspaper in every county where a newspaper is published throughout the state.

Publication.

Passed the Senate February 27, 1915.

Passed the House March 8, 1915.

NOTE BY SECRETARY OF STATE.

The above act filed in the office of the Secretary of State, March 17, 1915, and allowed to become operative without the approval of the Governor.

I. M. HOWELL,

Secretary of State.