

Enrolled

House Joint Resolution No 17-

By Wright.

A Resolution
Proposing An Amendment To The
Constitution Of This State.

Be It Enacted By The People Of The State Of Oklahoma;

That the following amendment to Section 21, Article 10, of the Constitution of this State is hereby proposed; Said amendment with the yeas and nays thereon to be entered in the journals of the respective bodies of the Legislature and referred by the Secretary of State to the people for their approval or rejection, so that last section will read as follows, to wit:

"There is hereby created a State Tax Commission; to consist of three members, whose duty shall be to assess and equalize the valuation of real and personal property between the several counties in the State and to assess all railroad and public service corporation property, and to exercise such administrative, legislative and judicial powers relating to taxation as may be prescribed by law, subject to be reviewed by the Supreme Court of the State in such manner as the Legislature may provide, and exercise such other powers as may be provided by law."

Passed the House of Representatives this 19 day of February, 1915.

W. McCreary

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Passed the Senate this 22 day of March, 1915.

M. C. Drapp

President of the Senate.

Approved this 30th day of March 1915.

W. H. Murray
Governor of the State of Oklahoma.

Enrolled
By Order of the Secretary of State

-----BALLOT TITLE-----

Proposed amendment to Section 21, Article 10, of the Constitution creating a state tax commission of three members to adjust or assess and equalize the valuation of real and personal property between counties and assess all railroad and public service corporation property and to exercise such other power relating to taxation as may be prescribed by the Legislature. Abolishes State Board of Equalization as now constituted.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

That the following amendment to Section 21, Article 10, of the Constitution of this State is hereby proposed; Said amendment with the yeas and nays thereon to be entered in the Journals of the respective bodies of the Legislature and referred by the Secretary of State to the people for their approval or rejection, so that last section will read as follows, to-wit:

" There is hereby created a State Tax Commission, to consist of three members, whose duty shall be to assess and equalize the valuation of real and personal property between the several counties in the State and to assess all railroad and public service corporation property, and to exercise such administrative, legislative and judicial powers relating to taxation as may be prescribed by law, subject to be reviewed by the Supreme Court of the State in such manner as the Legislature may provide, and exercise such other powers as may be provided by law."

ARGUMENT IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE JOINT
RESOLUTION NO. 17, PASSED MARCH 22, 1915.

Under this amendment the legislature may confer upon the tax commission power similar to that exercised by the Corporation Commission so that the commission may adjust all errors as to taxation on application without the intervention of the courts, its action to be subject to be reviewed by the Supreme Court. Tax ferrets ~~should~~ ^{after the adoption of this amendment can} be dispensed with and the tax commission should exercise authority and supervision in having all omitted property placed on the tax rolls, ^{also} and all grossly under-valued property, where it is occasioned by false representations or omissions on the part of the owner, to be reassessed. It is contemplated that the tax commission ^{by this means the tax commission can save the tax payer, thousands of dollars in payment of the 15% commission in cases like the tax payers} should be composed of experts and work on the job all the time, and in a scientific and intelligent way bring about a just equalization between different sections and counties of the state and cause assessments to be made so that every character of property will bear its just and proper burden of taxation.

In states where such a tax commission has been installed they have never been dispensed with, but other states have followed suit. This is the wise and modern plan of bringing about a just system of taxation and the administration of the same. The creation and maintenance of a tax commission will result in both economy and efficiency. Litigation and the expense thereof relative to the assessment of taxes will be obviated, thus operating as a saving not only to the tax payer individually, but also collectively in preventing litigation.

Howard Parker
Sec. Joint Legislative Committee.

by this means the tax commission can save the tax payer, thousands of dollars in payment of the 15% commission in cases like the tax payers

18 copies of this report to be made up of the committee on the 15th of April 1915

State Question #81
Initiative Petition #54

Argument

In Re

House Joint Resolution

#1

SECRETARY'S MEMORANDUM
OKLAHOMA LEGISLATIVE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Secretary's Office

This instrument was filed for record on

22 day of April

A. D., 1916 at 4 o'clock P. M.

Recorded in _____ of _____

Record No. _____ at _____

[Signature]

Secretary of State

By *[Signature]*
[Signature]

[Faint, mostly illegible text, likely the body of the memorandum or petition]

S. P. FREELING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

JNO. B. HARRISON
R. E. WOOD
R. McMILLAN
SMITH C. MATSON
C. W. KING
J. I. HOWARD
BANKING DEPARTMENT
J. H. MILEY
SCHOOL LAND DEPARTMENT
ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL

OKLAHOMA CITY

April 20, 1916

PLEASE REFER TO INITIAL

SCM/HML

To the Secretary of State,
City.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your communication enclosing copies of joint resolutions passed by the Legislatures of 1915 and 1916, proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State, together with proposed ballot titles for the submission of such proposed amendments and requesting this office in the event such ballot titles are not approved, to prepare ballot titles to conform to each of such proposed amendments. We submit herewith ballot titles to be used by you in the submission of these amendments as follows:

So 82 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION OR BILL #6, THE 1916 LEGISLATURE.

To this proposed amendment the Legislature has prescribed a ballot title in Section 3 of said resolution, which ballot title must be used in the submission of this proposed amendment and also in connection with the preparation of this ballot the form prescribed by the Legislature must be strictly followed.

Secretary of State-2

sq. 83

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION #12, APPROVED MARCH 13, 1915.

To this resolution the following ballot title is adopted:

The gist of this proposition is to repeal section 12a of article 10 of the Constitution, which section provides that all taxes collected for the maintenance of the common schools of the state and which are levied upon the property of any public service corporation operating in more than one county in the state shall be paid into the common school fund and distributed as are other common school funds of the state.

sq 89

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION #16, APPROVED MARCH 11, 1915.

For this proposed amendment the following ballot title is prepared:

An amendment abolishing county court and vesting jurisdiction of county court, including probate matters, in district court; district court to have original jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters whatever, except where Legislature hereafter confers exclusive jurisdiction on some other court; clerk of district court appointed by and holding at pleasure of judge and to exercise such judicial power as Legislature may provide; district judge ineligible to become candidate for office during his term except to succeed himself. Amendment to become effective second Monday of January, 1917.

The following ballot title is prepared to be used in connection with the submission of Senate Joint Resolution

sq 87 No. 18, Approved March 11, 1915:

Proposed amendment to Constitution providing for consolidation of supreme and criminal court of appeals as now constituted, with an additional justice, and as consolidated to be known as the Supreme Court of Oklahoma. Said court to sit in divisions of at least three justices; one Criminal Division to which appeals in criminal cases shall be taken; authorizing Legislature to provide for nomination and election and may reduce or increase the number of justices of said court and change the districts; appeals to be limited; relates also to rules of practice, decisions and organization of the court.

Secretary of State-3

5088
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION #22, APPROVED MARCH 11, 1915

The ballot title is as follows:

Proposed amendment to Section 19, Article 2, Constitution, providing that juries in courts of record other than county court, shall consist of 8 men, except in capital cases to consist of 12 men; juries in county court and courts not of record to consist of 6 men; in all civil cases and criminal cases less than felonies, three-fourths of jury may render verdict; also that Legislature may provide for rendering final judgment in the appellate court without remanding cause for retrial by jury as to the facts.

5085
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION #20, APPROVED MARCH 30, 1915.

The ballot title is as follows:

Proposed amendment to Section 27, Article 10, Constitution relating to limitations upon indebtedness of incorporated cities and towns, limits such municipalities as to indebtedness in addition to the amount allowed under Section 26, Article 10, Constitution, to only 5 per cent of the assessed valuation of the property therein, for the purpose of purchasing, constructing or repairing municipal-owned public utilities; such additional indebtedness to be authorized by assent of three-fifths of the qualified, property taxpaying voters at an election, and this limitation not to include indebtedness incurred under Section 27, Article 10, prior to adoption of this amendment.

5084
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION #27, APPROVED MARCH 30, 1915.

The ballot title is as follows:

This proposed amendment to the Constitution reduces the salary of the Clerk of the Supreme Court to \$2500.00 instead of \$3000.00 as now provided; clerk to be appointed by the Supreme Court; and constitutes the clerk ex officio clerk of any other appellate courts in the state; amendment to be effective second Monday in January, 1919.

5080
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION #1, APPROVED MARCH 30, 1915.

The ballot title is as follows;

Secretary of State-4

Proposed amendment to Section 7, Article 23, Constitution, authorizing the Legislature to provide for compulsory or elective compensation by the employer to the employee in case of death, permanent or partial disability and to create the machinery for the administration of such workmen's or employees' compensation fund.

5281 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION #17, APPROVED MARCH 30, 1915.

The ballot title is as follows:

Proposed amendment to Section 21, Article 10, of the Constitution creating a state tax commission of three members to adjust or assess and equalize the valuation of real and personal property between counties and assess all railroad and public service corporation property and to exercise such other powers relating to taxation as may be prescribed by the Legislature. Abolishes State Board of Equalization as now constituted.

Very truly,

For the Attorney General,

Smith C. Matson
Assistant Attorney General.

OB-St