
**INITIATIVES, REFERENDUMS, AND
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

Attorney General's Explanatory Statement

This amendment would change the minimum age qualification for voters from nineteen (19) years to eighteen (18) years. The present one (1) year residency requirement would be changed to a residency requirement of thirty (30) days immediately preceding the election. The present requirement that a person be a property taxpayer to be eligible to vote on questions concerning the creation of a levy, debt or liability, would be removed. This is a housekeeping amendment which complies with the requirements of the United States Constitution and recent decisions of the United States Supreme Court relating to age and taxpayer voter qualifications.

AN ACT TO SUBMIT TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF MONTANA AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 2, ARTICLE IX OF THE CONSTITUTION OF MONTANA CHANGING THE LEGAL VOTING AGE TO EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE, CHANGING THE PERIOD OF RESIDENCE TO THIRTY (30) DAYS AND DELETING THE REQUIREMENT THAT A VOTER BE A TAXPAYER ON CERTAIN ISSUES, AND TO REMOVE OBSOLETE LANGUAGE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 2, article IX of the constitution of the state of Montana is amended to read as follows:

"Section 2. Every person of the age of eighteen (18) years or over, possessing the following qualifications, shall be entitled to vote at all general elections and for all officers that now are, or hereafter may be, elective by the people, and, except as hereinafter provided, upon all questions which may be submitted to the vote of the people or electors: First, he shall be a citizen of the United States; second, he shall have resided in this state thirty (30) days immediately preceding the election at which he offers to vote, and in the town, County or precinct such time as may be prescribed by law. Provided that no person convicted of felony shall have the right to vote unless he has been pardoned or restored to citizenship by the governor."

For the above amendment.

Against the above amendment.