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AUTHORIZING BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO DRAFT COUNTY CHARTER

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AUTHORIZING BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO DRAFT COUNTY CHARTER. Assembly Constitutional Amendment 23. Adds Section 7½ to Article XI of Constitution. Confers upon board of supervisors of any county same power to draft a proposed charter for said county as is conferred upon board of freeholders elected under Section 7½ of Article XI; declares provisions of latter section shall otherwise apply in every respect to such proposed charter.	YES	
	NO	

(For full text of measure, see page 23, Part II)

Argument in Favor of Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 23

The purpose of this amendment is to encourage the adoption of county home rule charters. California counties now have the choice of being governed by uniform general law as passed and modified by the state Legislature, or of adopting home rule charters drafted by an elected board of freeholders. This amendment does not in any manner prevent or affect the securing of a county charter by electing freeholders, which method will still be available exactly as at present, but it does make it possible for a county board of supervisors to propose a charter to the voters, thus avoiding the necessity of electing freeholders.

The proposed alternative method would not only be less cumbersome and less expensive than is the freeholders method, but it is believed that charters proposed by county supervisors would generally be more acceptable to the people than are those proposed by freeholders. The supervisors are in a better position to judge the needs of the county, and they would have an indefinite period of time in which to secure useful information and to study the recommendations of others; or they could submit to the voters, with little or no modification, charters which have worked well in other counties of similar character, or which have been prepared by experts in county government. Moreover, it has been found that inexperienced or unfriendly freeholders often insist on the inclusion in a proposed charter of features which discredit the entire instrument and cause it to be rejected at the polls.

Largely because of the unacceptable character of charters proposed by freeholders, only six of our fifty-eight counties have taken advantage of the home rule provisions of the Constitution, which permit greater local control and more suitable forms of government than the general law affords. The general law, which must be uniform, can not make different provisions for counties of different size and character, while experience has shown that these differences create serious needs for corresponding differences in governmental framework of counties. For example, many counties can use a road engineer, a planning commission, or a public defender to advantage, while other counties can operate quite satisfactorily without such officers. By the adoption of a charter a county may secure the form of government most suited to its needs.

It should be noted that this amendment is not in any sense a radical departure from existing principles, inasmuch as county supervisors may now propose amendments to a county charter once it has been adopted. The new feature simply provides an alternative and more satisfactory method of adopting a charter. The amendment does not apply to the city and county of San Francisco.

The recommendations of the California Commission on County Home Rule suggested the amendment, and its adoption will further the long established and well settled policy of bringing local government closer home to the people.

GEORGE R. BLISS,
Assemblyman, 49th District.

GEORGE B. BOWERS,
Assemblyman, 78th District.

PART II
APPENDIX

provide that each such borough or district may exercise such general or special municipal powers, and to be administered in such manner, as may be prescribed provided for each such borough or district in such the charter; provided, however, that after the creation of any such borough, the powers thereof shall not be modified, amended or abridged in any manner without the consent of a majority of the qualified electors of such borough voting at a regular or special election of the city, or city and county.

The percentages of the registered electors herein required for the election of freeholders or the submission of amendments to charters shall be calculated upon the total vote cast in the city or city and county at the last preceding general state election; and the qualified electors shall be those whose names appear upon the registration records of the same or preceding year. The election laws of such city, or city and county shall, so far as applicable, govern all elections held under the authority of this section.

AUTHORIZING BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO DRAFT COUNTY CHARTER. Assembly Constitutional Amendment 23. Adds Section 7 1/4

18 to Article XI of Constitution. Confers upon board of supervisors of any county same power to draft a proposed charter for said county as is conferred upon board of freeholders elected under Section 7 1/2 of Article XI; declares provisions of latter section shall otherwise apply in every respect to such proposed charter.

YES	
NO	

Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 23—A resolution to propose to the people of the State of California, an amendment to the constitution of said state by adding to article eleven thereof, a new section to be numbered 7 1/4, relative to the drafting of charters for counties by boards of supervisors.

Resolved by the Assembly, the Senate concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California at its regular session commencing on the fifth day of January, 1931, two-thirds of the members elected to each of the two houses of the said Legislature voting therefor, hereby proposes to the people of the State of California, that the constitution of said state be

amended by adding to article eleven thereof, a new section to be numbered 7 1/4, and to read as follows:

(This proposed amendment does not expressly amend any existing section of the constitution, but adds a new section thereto; therefore, the provisions thereof are printed in BLACK-FACED TYPE to indicate that they are NEW.)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Sec. 7 1/4. The board of supervisors of any county may draft a proposed charter for the county as if said board were a board of freeholders elected under the provisions of section 7 1/2 of this article, and the provisions of said section shall otherwise apply in every respect to such proposed charter.

CITY CHARTER PROVISIONS FOR NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS. Senate Constitutional Amendment 9. Amends Section 8 1/2 of Article XI of Constitution. Adds provision permitting city or city and county charters to provide any mode for the nomination and/or election of officers of such city or city and county, and to adopt and provide for any system of proportional representation on the legislative body thereof, also the manner of voting under such system.

19 8 1/2 of Article XI of Constitution. Adds provision permitting city or city and county charters to provide any mode for the nomination and/or election of officers of such city or city and county, and to adopt and provide for any system of proportional representation on the legislative body thereof, also the manner of voting under such system.

YES	
NO	

Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 9—A resolution to propose to the people of the State of California, an amendment to the constitution of said state by amending section 8 1/2 of article eleven of the constitution of said state, relating to city charters and to the mode of elections held thereunder.

Resolved by the Senate, the Assembly concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California at its regular session commencing on the fifth day of January, 1931, two-thirds of the members elected to each of the two houses of the said Legislature voting therefor, hereby proposes to the people of the State of

California, that the constitution of said state be amended by amending section 8 1/2 of article eleven thereof to read as follows:

(This proposed amendment expressly amends an existing section of the constitution; therefore EXISTING PROVISIONS proposed to be DELETED, if any, are printed in STRIKE-OUT TYPE; and NEW PROVISIONS proposed to be INSERTED are printed in BLACK-FACED TYPE.)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Sec. 8 1/2. It shall be competent, in all charters framed under the authority given by section 8 of