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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

INTRODUCED BY

Javier Martínez and Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

A JOINT RESOLUTION

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 7, SECTION 1 THE CONSTITUTION  
OF NEW MEXICO REQUIRING THAT ALL QUALIFIED ELECTORS BE  
REGISTERED TO VOTE UNDER ANY REGISTRATION SYSTEM, EXCEPT FOR  
THOSE WHO AFFIRMATIVELY CHOOSE NOT TO BE REGISTERED, AND THAT  
ALL QUALIFIED ELECTORS WHO VOTE SHALL HAVE THEIR VOTES COUNTED.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. It is proposed to amend Article 7, Section 1  
of the constitution of New Mexico to read:

"A. Every person who is a qualified elector  
pursuant to the constitution and laws of the United States and  
a citizen thereof shall be qualified to vote in all elections  
in New Mexico, subject to residency and registration  
requirements provided by law, except as restricted by statute  
either by reason of criminal conviction for a felony or by

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 reason of mental incapacity, being limited only to those  
2 persons who are unable to mark their ballot and who are  
3 concurrently also unable to communicate their voting  
4 preference. The legislature may enact laws providing for  
5 absentee voting by qualified electors. All school elections  
6 shall be held at different times from partisan elections.

7 B. The legislature shall have the power to require  
8 the registration of the qualified electors as a requisite for  
9 voting and shall regulate the manner, time and places of  
10 voting. If the legislature requires the registration of  
11 qualified electors as a requisite for voting, the state shall  
12 ensure that all qualified electors are registered to vote for  
13 each election, except for those who affirmatively choose not to  
14 be registered, and that the vote of a qualified elector shall  
15 not be excluded from being counted for failure of the state to  
16 provide for the qualified elector's voter registration on or  
17 before election day.

18 C. The legislature shall enact such laws as will  
19 secure the secrecy of the ballot and the purity of elections  
20 and guard against the abuse of elective franchise. Not more  
21 than two members of the board of registration and not more than  
22 two judges of election shall belong to the same political party  
23 at the time of their appointment."

24 SECTION 2. The amendment proposed by this resolution  
25 shall be submitted to the people for their approval or

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1 rejection at the next general election or at any special  
2 election prior to that date that may be called for that  
3 purpose.

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