

Election of County Sheriffs Constitutional Amendment; HCR 5022

HCR 5022, if approved by a majority of Kansas voters, would amend Article 9, Sections 2 and 5 of the *Kansas Constitution* to add language concerning the election of county sheriffs and removal of a sheriff from office.

The constitutional amendment would require the election of a county sheriff in counties that had not abolished the office of sheriff before January 11, 2022, and specify that a sheriff be elected in such counties for a term of four years. [Note: Riley County abolished its sheriff's office in 1974 and is the only county in Kansas without a sheriff.]

The amended section would state any county that had abolished the office of sheriff prior to January 11, 2022, would be authorized to restore the office of sheriff as provided by law, and such restoration would be irrevocable.

The amendment would also specify that a county sheriff only may be involuntarily removed from office by a recall election pursuant to Article 4, Section 3 of the *Kansas Constitution* or a writ of *quo warranto* initiated by the Attorney General.

The resolution requires the following explanatory statement be printed on the ballot with the text of the amendment if it is submitted to voters for their approval:

This amendment would preserve the right of citizens of each county that elected a county sheriff as of January 11, 2022, to continue electing the county sheriff. The amendment would also provide that a county sheriff only may be involuntarily removed from office pursuant to either a recall election or a writ of *quo warranto* initiated by the attorney general.

A vote for this proposition would preserve the right of citizens of each county that elected a county sheriff as of January 11, 2022, to continue electing the county sheriff via popular vote. The amendment would also direct that a county sheriff only may be involuntarily removed from office pursuant to either a recall election or a writ of *quo warranto* initiated by the attorney general.

A vote against this proposition would not make any changes to the constitution and would retain current law concerning the election of a sheriff and the procedures for involuntary removal of a sheriff from office.

The resolution requires the proposed constitutional amendment to be submitted to voters at the general election in November 2022.