PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

S. J. R. No. 18.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION.

Proposing and submitting to a vote of the people of Texas an amendment
to Section 52 of Article 3 of the Constitution, authorizing the issuance
of bonds for public improvements, and levying of a tax to pay the interest
and sinking fund on same, and for maintenance.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. That Section 52 of Article 3 of the Constitution of
the State of Texas be amended so as hereafter to read as follows,
to wit:

Section 52. The Legislature shall have no power to authorize any
county, city, town or other political corporation or subdivision of the
State, to lend its credit or to grant public money or thing of value
in aid of, or to, any individual, association or corporation whatsoever,
or to become a stockholder in such corporation, association or company;
provided, however, that under legislative provision any county, any
political subdivision of a county, or any defined district now or here-
after to be described and defined within the State of Texas, and which
may or may not include towns, villages, or municipal corporations,
upon a vote of two-thirds majority of the resident property taxpayers
voting thereon who are qualified electors of such district or territory
to be affected thereby, in addition to all other debts may issue bonds
or otherwise lend its credit in any amount not to exceed one-fourth
of the assessed valuation of the real property of such district or terri-
tory; except that the total bonded indebtedness of any city or town
shall never exceed the limits imposed by other provisions of this Con-
stitution; and levy and collect such taxes to pay the interest thereon
and provide a sinking fund for the redemption thereof as the Legis-
lature may authorize, and in such manner as it may authorize the
same, for the following purposes, to wit:

(a) The improvement of rivers, creeks and streams to prevent
overflows, and to permit of navigation thereof, or irrigation there-
from, or in aid of such purposes.

(b) The construction and maintenance of pools, lakes, reservoirs,
dams, canals and waterways for the purposes of irrigation, drainage
or navigation, or in aid thereof.

(c) The construction, maintenance and operation of macadamized,
graveled or paved roads and turnpikes, or in aid thereof.

Provided, however, that under legislative enactment any defined
district now or hereafter to be described and defined within the State
of Texas, which may be formed for the purpose of reclaiming and im-
proving overflowed and swamp lands in this state, and maintaining the
improvements thereof, may, upon a vote of two-thirds majority of
the resident property taxpayers voting thereon who are qualified
electors of such district or territory, in addition to all other debts,
issue bonds or otherwise lend its credit in any amount not to exceed
fifty per cent of the assessed valuation of the real property in such
district or territory.

Provided, further, that where a county, district or other political
subdivision has issued bonds for improvements for the purposes named
in this section, the Legislature may authorize the levy and collection
of taxes for the maintenance of such improvements, not to exceed
fifty cents on the hundred dollars valuation in any one year.

Sec. 2. The foregoing amendment of Section 52 of Article 3 of
the Constitution of Texas shall be submitted to the qualified electors
of this state for its adoption or rejection, at a special election hereby
ordered for the fourth Saturday in July, A. D. 1915, the same being
the.......day of said month. All voters on this proposed amend-
ment at said election who favor its adoption shall have printed or writ-
ten on their ballots the following: "For amendment of Section 52
of Article 3 of the Constitution, authorizing the issuance of bonds
for levee, drainage, road and other public improvements, and for
taxes therefor." Those voting against its adoption shall have printed
or written on their ballots the following: "Against the amendment
of Section 52 of Article 3 of the Constitution, authorizing the issuance
of bonds for levee, drainage, road and other public improvements, and
for taxes therefor." Previous to the election the Secretary of State
shall cause to be printed and forwarded to the County Judge of each
county, for use in said election, a sufficient number of ballots for the
use of the voters in each county, on which he shall have printed the
form of ballot herein prescribed, for the convenient use of voters.

Sec. 3. The Governor of the State is hereby directed to issue his
necessary proclamation ordering this election, and have the same pub-
lished as required by the Constitution and laws of this State. The
sum of five thousand dollars ($5,000.00), or so much thereof as may
be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the State
Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to defray the expenses of pub-
lishing said proclamation, and printing and distributing the neces-
sary tickets and blanks for use in said election.

[Note.—S. J. R. No. 18 was adopted by the Senate March 16, yeas
24, nays 0. Was adopted by the House March 18, yeas 105, nays 4.]

Approved March 22, 1915.