

PRELIMINARY DRAFT – NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION  
**2005 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION**

1 **To amend** section 4 (1) (a) and (b) of article VI, section 4 (2) of article VI and section  
2 4 (5) of article VI of the constitution; **relating to:** abolishing the office of coroner  
3 (first consideration).

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***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This proposed constitutional amendment, proposed to the 2005 legislature on first consideration, abolishes the office of coroner in all counties.

A proposed constitutional amendment requires adoption by 2 successive legislatures, and ratification by the people, before it can become effective.

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***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That:***

4 **SECTION 1.** Section 4 (1) (a) and (b) of article VI of the constitution are amended  
5 to read:

6 [Article VI] Section 4 (1) (a) Except as provided in pars. (b) and (c) and sub. (2),  
7 coroners, registers of deeds, district attorneys, and all other elected county officers,  
8 except judicial officers, sheriffs, and chief executive officers, shall be chosen by the  
9 electors of the respective counties once in every 2 years.  
10

1 (b) Beginning with the first general election at which the governor is elected  
2 which occurs after the ratification of this paragraph, sheriffs shall be chosen by the  
3 electors of the respective counties, or by the electors of all of the respective counties  
4 comprising each combination of counties combined by the legislature for that  
5 purpose, for the term of 4 years and coroners in counties in which there is a coroner  
6 shall be chosen by the electors of the respective counties, or by the electors of all of  
7 the respective counties comprising each combination of counties combined by the  
8 legislature for that purpose, for the term of 4 years.

9 **SECTION 2.** Section 4 (2) of article VI of the constitution is amended to read:

10 [Article VI] Section 4 (2) The ~~offices of coroner and~~ office of surveyor in counties  
11 having a population of 500,000 or more are is abolished. The office of coroner is  
12 abolished. ~~Counties not having a population of 500,000 shall have the option of~~  
13 ~~retaining the elective office of coroner or instituting a medical examiner system. Two~~  
14 ~~or more counties may institute a joint medical examiner system.~~

15 **SECTION 3.** Section 4 (5) of article VI of the constitution is amended to read:

16 [Article VI] Section 4 (5) All vacancies in the offices of ~~coroner~~, register of deeds  
17 or district attorney shall be filled by appointment. The person appointed to fill a  
18 vacancy shall hold office only for the unexpired portion of the term to which  
19 appointed and until a successor shall be elected and qualified.

20 ***Be it further resolved, That*** this proposed amendment be referred to the  
21 legislature to be chosen at the next general election and that it be published for 3  
22 months previous to the time of holding such election.

23 (END)