

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:** deleting from the constitution
3 the office of coroner (first consideration).

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This proposed constitutional amendment, proposed to the 2005 legislature on first consideration, deletes from the constitution the office of coroner.

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

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

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

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

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. ~~Counties not having a~~
12 ~~population of 500,000 shall have the option of retaining the elective office of coroner~~
13 ~~or instituting a medical examiner system. Two or more counties may institute a joint~~
14 ~~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)