

CACR 3 - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0311
02/08

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION **3**

RELATING TO: recall elections.

PROVIDING THAT: the general court may authorize recall elections.

SPONSORS: Rep. Moffett, Merr. 4; Rep. Belcher, Carr. 4; Rep. Harvey-Bolia, Belk. 3; Rep. Nelson, Rock. 13; Sen. Sullivan, Dist 18

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This constitutional amendment concurrent resolution authorizes the general court to provide a recall procedure to permit citizens to remove an elected official before the end of a term of office.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

RELATING TO: recall elections.

PROVIDING THAT: the general court may authorize recall elections.

Be it Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, that the Constitution of New Hampshire be amended as follows:

1 I. That article 5 of the second part of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

2 [Art.] 5. [Power to Make Laws, Elect Officers, Define Their Powers and Duties, Impose Fines
3 and Assess Taxes; Prohibited from Authorizing Towns to Aid Certain Corporations.] And further,
4 full power and authority are hereby given and granted to the said general court, from time to time,
5 to make, ordain, and establish, all manner of wholesome and reasonable orders, laws, statutes,
6 ordinances, directions, and instructions, either with penalties, or without, so as the same be not
7 repugnant or contrary to this constitution, as they may judge for the benefit and welfare of this
8 state, and for the governing and ordering thereof, and of the subjects of the same, for the necessary
9 support and defense of the government thereof, and to name and settle biennially, or provide by
10 fixed laws for the naming and settling, all civil officers within this state, such officers excepted, the
11 election and appointment of whom are hereafter in this form of government otherwise provided for;
12 ***and to provide a recall procedure to permit citizens to remove an elected official before the***
13 ***end of a term of office;*** and to set forth the several duties, powers, and limits, of the several civil
14 and military officers of this state, and the forms of such oaths or affirmations as shall be respectively
15 administered unto them, for the execution of their several offices and places, so as the same be not
16 repugnant or contrary to this constitution; and also to impose fines, mulcts, imprisonments, and
17 other punishments, and to impose and levy proportional and reasonable assessments, rates, and
18 taxes, upon all the inhabitants of, and residents within, the said state; and upon all estates within
19 the same; to be issued and disposed of by warrant, under the hand of the governor of this state for
20 the time being, with the advice and consent of the council, for the public service, in the necessary
21 defense and support of the government of this state, and the protection and preservation of the
22 subjects thereof, according to such acts as are, or shall be, in force within the same; provided that the
23 general court shall not authorize any town to loan or give its money or credit directly or indirectly for
24 the benefit of any corporation having for its object a dividend of profits or in any way aid the same by
25 taking its stocks or bonds. For the purpose of encouraging conservation of the forest resources of the
26 state, the general court may provide for special assessments, rates and taxes on growing wood and
27 timber.

28 II. That the above amendment proposed to the constitution be submitted to the qualified

CACR 3 - AS INTRODUCED
- Page 2 -

1 voters of the state at the state general election to be held in November, 2026.

2 III. That the selectmen of all towns, cities, wards and places in the state are directed to
3 insert in their warrants for the said 2026 election an article to the following effect: To decide
4 whether the amendments of the constitution proposed by the 2025 session of the general court shall
5 be approved.

6 IV. That the wording of the question put to the qualified voters shall be:
7 “Are you in favor of amending article 5 of the second part of the constitution to read as follows:

8 [Art.] 5. [Power to Make Laws, Elect Officers, Define Their Powers and Duties, Impose Fines
9 and Assess Taxes; Prohibited from Authorizing Towns to Aid Certain Corporations.] And further, full
10 power and authority are hereby given and granted to the said general court, from time to time, to
11 make, ordain, and establish, all manner of wholesome and reasonable orders, laws, statutes,
12 ordinances, directions, and instructions, either with penalties, or without, so as the same be not
13 repugnant or contrary to this constitution, as they may judge for the benefit and welfare of this state,
14 and for the governing and ordering thereof, and of the subjects of the same, for the necessary support
15 and defense of the government thereof, and to name and settle biennially, or provide by fixed laws
16 for the naming and settling, all civil officers within this state, such officers excepted, the election and
17 appointment of whom are hereafter in this form of government otherwise provided for; and to
18 provide a recall procedure to permit citizens to remove an elected official before the end of a term of
19 office; and to set forth the several duties, powers, and limits, of the several civil and military officers
20 of this state, and the forms of such oaths or affirmations as shall be respectively administered unto
21 them, for the execution of their several offices and places, so as the same be not repugnant or
22 contrary to this constitution; and also to impose fines, mulcts, imprisonments, and other
23 punishments, and to impose and levy proportional and reasonable assessments, rates, and taxes,
24 upon all the inhabitants of, and residents within, the said state; and upon all estates within the
25 same; to be issued and disposed of by warrant, under the hand of the governor of this state for the
26 time being, with the advice and consent of the council, for the public service, in the necessary defense
27 and support of the government of this state, and the protection and preservation of the subjects
28 thereof, according to such acts as are, or shall be, in force within the same; provided that the general
29 court shall not authorize any town to loan or give its money or credit directly or indirectly for the
30 benefit of any corporation having for its object a dividend of profits or in any way aid the same by
31 taking its stocks or bonds. For the purpose of encouraging conservation of the forest resources of the
32 state, the general court may provide for special assessments, rates and taxes on growing wood and
33 timber.”

34 V. That the secretary of state shall print the question to be submitted on a separate ballot
35 with other constitutional questions or on the official ballot. The ballot containing the question shall
36 include 2 ovals next to the question allowing the voter to vote “Yes” or “No.” If no oval is marked, the
37 ballot shall not be counted on the question. The outside of the ballot shall be the same as the regular

CACR 3 - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 3 -

1 official ballot except that the words “Questions Relating to Constitutional Amendments proposed by
2 the 2025 General Court” shall be printed in bold type at the top of the ballot.

3 VI. That if the proposed amendment is approved by 2/3 of those voting on the amendment, it
4 becomes effective when the governor proclaims its adoption.

5 VII. Voters' Guide.

6 AT THE PRESENT TIME, there is no recall procedure in this state for removing an
7 elected official before the end of his or her term of office.

8 IF THE AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED, it will enable the state legislature to
9 authorize recall election for citizens to remove an elected official before the end of his or her term of
10 office.