



## Conservation Voters FOR IDAHO

**House Joint Resolution 5 Overview:** This proposed Constitutional Amendment would change Section 2, Article VI to state:

QUALIFICATIONS OF ELECTORS. Every male or female citizen of the United States, eighteen years old, who has resided in this state, and in the county where he or she offers to vote for the period provided by law, if registered as provided by law, is a qualified elector. No person who is not a citizen of the United States shall be a qualified elector in any election held within the state of Idaho.

**Concerns:** It is important to definitively state that under the existing Constitution and Idaho State Statute, only citizens can vote in Idaho elections. Non-citizens can't vote. This is explicit both in the Constitution and Statute. Section 2, Article VI of the Idaho Constitution has never been interpreted, either by election officials or Idaho courts, to allow non-citizens to vote.

Conservation Voters for Idaho's concern with this legislation is that it is not internally consistent and will create confusion among voters. Specifically, if this sentence...

"Every male or female citizen of the United States, eighteen years old, who has resided in this state, and in the county where he or she offers to vote for the period provided by law, if registered as provided by law, is a qualified elector."

...is not sufficient to establish that only citizens are eligible to vote, then the logical conclusion is that this same sentence is also not sufficient to establish that only those over the age of eighteen are eligible to vote. By the premise of HJR5, we also need clarifying statements that 1) you need to be 18 to vote and 2) you need to be an Idaho resident to vote.

Either we need additional sentences explicitly stating that 1) No person who is under the age of eighteen shall be a qualified elector in any election held within the state of Idaho and 2) No person who does not reside in the state shall be a qualified elector in any election held within the state of Idaho, or this legislation is unnecessary, confusing for voters (who correctly believe that non-citizens currently can't vote), and could cost the state \$200,000.

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