



Tidbits from the Tour Guides, published by the Iowa State Capitol Tour Guides weekly during the legislative session, features historical facts about Iowa, the Capitol, and the early workings of state government. All historical publications are reproduced here with the actual spelling, punctuation, and grammar retained.

THIS WEEK: The Iowa Senate placed the following paragraphs in the Senate Journal in 1896. Joint Resolution 9 failed to pass on April 3, 1896, and the committee report for Joint Resolution 10 was adopted on March 25, 1896.

The amendment to the Iowa Constitution of 1926, struck the word “male” from Section 4 of Article III, relating to the Iowa Legislature. In 1929, Carolyn Pendray of Maquoketa was the first woman to serve in the Iowa House of Representatives, and she went on to become the first woman to serve in the Iowa Senate in 1932.

Journal of the Senate – 1896

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9

Be it Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa, That the following amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa be and the same is hereby proposed, viz:

To amend section one, article two, of the State Constitution of Iowa, which reads as follows:

"Every male citizen of the United States of the age of 21 who shall have been a resident of this state six months next preceding the election, and of the county in which he claims his vote sixty days, shall be entitled to vote at all elections which are now or hereafter may be authorized by law, "by adding the words "and female" after the word male in the first line of said section, and in the third line of said section adding the words "or she" after the word he, and in the same line of said section adding the words "or her" after the word his. Said section when so amended to read as follows:

"Every male or female citizen of the United States of the age of 21 who shall have been a resident of this state six months next preceding the election, and of the county in which he or she claims his or her vote sixty days, shall be entitled to vote at all elections which are now or hereafter may be authorized by law."

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

Be it Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa, That the following amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa be, and the same is hereby proposed, viz:

To amend section four of article three of the State Constitution of Iowa, which reads as follows: "No person shall be a member of the House of Representatives who shall not have attained the age of 21 years; be a male citizen of the United States, and shall have been an inhabitant of this state one year next preceding his election; shall have had an actual residence of sixty days in the county of district he may have been chosen to represent, " by striking out the word male in the second line of said section, and adding the words "or her" after the word his, occurring twice in the fourth line of said section, and adding the words "or she" after the word he in the fifth line of said section.

Said section when so amended to read as follows:

"No person shall be a member of the House of Representatives who shall not have attained the age of 21 years; be a citizen of the United States, and shall have been an inhabitant of this state one year next preceding his or her election, at the time of his or her election shall have had an actual residence of sixty days in the county or district he or she may have been chosen to represent.