

STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, URGING VOTERS TO APPROVE PROPOSED STATE-WIDE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS IN NOVEMBER 7 GENERAL ELECTION. OCTOBER 31, 1950.

In the interest of good government, I want to urge the voters of South Carolina to approve the three State-wide constitutional amendments which they will find on their ballots in the general election November 7.

Amendment No. 1 removes the requirement that a poll tax must be paid before voting in elections. I urged the General Assembly to take this action because the poll tax, which results in very little revenue, is an encumbrance in our election system, and it possibly deprives some citizens of the right to vote. It should be removed from our election laws, leaving capacity, in accordance with other constitutional provisions, as the only qualification for voting. Incidentally, its removal would eliminate a favorite target of outside agitators who have made false statements about the poll tax in their misguided attacks upon the South.

Amendment No. 2 removes the requirement that the voter must obtain a municipal registration certificate in addition to his county registration certificate in order to vote in city elections. If this amendment is approved, our registration system will be simplified, and it will be easier to vote. The present law for municipal elections also has a poll tax requirement attached to it, and this would be removed in approving Amendment No. 2.

Amendment No. 3 removes the present limitation on the size of school districts. In this day of consolidation to obtain better school facilities, this limitation on the size of districts is an obstacle to educational progress. We should approve the amendment, and make it possible for counties desiring to do so to reorganize their school districts for efficiency, economy, and better schools.

Original
J. Strom Thurmond
Governor

2264.

[31 Oct. 1950]

(28-11)

All three of these amendments to the State Constitution should receive the overwhelming approval of our voters. They represent progressive steps in the direction of better government in South Carolina.