

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR OF

THE STATE OF TEXAS

WHEREAS, by the several acts of the Legislature of the State of Texas, hereto appended, it is declared that an Ordinance dissolving the connection of Texas with the Federal Union, shall be submitted to the people of Texas, for their ratification or rejection; and whereas, it is also declared, that an election shall be held on the 23d day of February, A. D. 1861, at which the qualified electors of the State shall vote upon the same, and it is made the duty of the Governor to issue Proclamation for the same.

NOW THEREFORE, I, SAM HOUSTON, Governor of the State of Texas, in obedience to law, do issue this my Proclamation, directing the Chief Justices of the various counties of the State, (or in case of vacancy in the office of Chief Justice, or the failure or inability of that officer to act, then any two of the County Commissioners) to give due notice and cause polls to be opened at the several precincts of their respective counties on the said 23d day of February, A. D., 1861, at which the qualified electors will signify their approval or disapproval of said Ordinance, by the use of the words, "FOR SECESSION" or "AGAINST SECESSION."

And the Chief Justices or County Commissioners, as the case may be, shall cause returns to be made to them of said election, on or before the 26th day of February, A. D. 1861, and they shall on that day make duplicate returns of the same, as provided for in the two acts of the Legislature hereto appended.

{ L. S. } Given under my hand and the Great seal of the State at Austin, this, the 9th day of February, A. D. 1861, and of the Independence of the United States, the Eighty-fifth, and of Texas, the Twenty-fifth,

By the Governor,
E. W. CAVE, Secretary of State.

SAM HOUSTON.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Concerning the Convention of the people of Texas, called in pursuance of the Bill of Rights.

WHEREAS, the people of Texas, being much concerned for the preservation of the rights, liberties and powers of the State and its inhabitants, endangered by the political action of a majority of the States, and the people of the same, have in the exercise of powers reserved to themselves, in the Bill of Rights, called a Convention, composed of two members for each Representative in the Legislature, from the various districts established by the apportionment law of 1860, to assemble on the 23th day of January 1861, at the city of Austin; which convention, by the terms of the call, made by numerous assemblages of citizens in various parts of the State, was, when elected and assembled, to have power to consider the condition of public affairs; to determine what shall be the future relations of this State to the Union, and such other matters as are necessarily and properly incident thereto; and in case it should be determined by said convention, that it is necessary for the preservation of the rights and liberties aforesaid, that the sovereignty of Texas should resume the powers delegated to the Federal Government, in the Constitution of the United States, and by the articles of annexation, then the ordinance of said convention resuming said delegated powers, and repealing the ratification by the people of Texas of said articles of annexation should be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of this State, for their ratification or rejection; therefore

Be it Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas, That the Government of the State of Texas, hereby gives its assent to, and approves of the Convention aforesaid.

SEC. 2. That this Resolution take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

With a protest against the assumption of any powers, on the part of said Convention beyond the reference of the question of a longer connection of Texas with the Union, to the people.

Approved 4th February, 1861.

SAM HOUSTON.

AN ACT

To provide for submitting the Ordinance of Secession to a vote of the People.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas, That the Chief Justice, or other county officers, required by the direction of the State Convention and presiding officers of precincts of the several counties of the State are hereby empowered and required to order and to hold elections in their respective counties, and at their several precincts, on such day or days as may be prescribed therein, for the ratification or rejection of the Ordinance of Secession passed by a Convention of the people, assembled in the city of Austin on the 1st day of February A. D.

1861, and to conduct said election in all respects according to the existing laws regulating elections for members of the Legislature, and make returns thereof in such manner and to such persons, and within such time as may be prescribed by said Convention, under the penalties prescribed in the laws aforesaid.

SEC. 2. That all qualified electors for members of the Legislature of this State, shall be entitled to vote at said election at any precinct in the State, and indicate their approval or disapproval of said ordinance by the use of such terms as may be presented by said Convention.

SEC. 3. That this act take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Passed February 7th, 1861.

AN ACT

Supplementary to an Act, entitled "An Act, to provide for submitting the Ordinance of Secession to a vote of the People," passed at the present Session.

SEC. 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas, that the Governor be and he is hereby authorized and required to issue forthwith his Proclamation for an Election provided for in the Act to which this is a supplement, directing the vote to be taken, and returns to be made in the manner prescribed in said Act and in the Ordinance of the Convention on the subject.

SEC. 2. In addition to the returns to be made as provided in the Ordinance aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the County officers, to whom returns of said Election are made, to make returns of their respective Counties to the Secretary of State, and such returns shall be filed and counted by him in the presence of the Governor and Attorney General. Any returns received within fifteen days after the 2nd day of March, 1861, shall be in like manner filed and counted, and all such returns shall become record of the State Department.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect and be in force from its passage.

Approved with a protest against the short time allowed for notice, February 9, 1861.

SAM HOUSTON.

THE STATE OF TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

I, the undersigned, Secretary of State, do hereby certify that the above are copies of the original Joint Resolution and Acts, now on file in the State Department.

Given under my hand and the seal of the State Department, at Austin, this the 9th day of February, A. D. 1861.

E. W. CAVE, Secretary of State.