



Amending the Iowa Constitution The Process:

Constitution Requires:

Pathway 1: (Legislature)

"Any amendment or amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in either House of the General Assembly; and if the same shall be agreed to by a majority of the members elected to each of the two Houses, such proposed amendment shall be entered on their journals, with the yeas and nays taken thereon, and referred to the Legislature to be chosen at the next general election, and shall be published, as provided by law, for three months previous to the time of making such choice; and if, in the General Assembly so next chosen as aforesaid, such proposed amendment or amendments shall be agreed to, by a majority of all the members elected to each House, then it shall be the duty of the General Assembly to submit such proposed amendment or amendments to the people, in such manner, and at such time as the General Assembly shall provide; and if the people shall approve and ratify such amendment or amendments, by a majority of the electors qualified to vote for members of the General Assembly, voting thereon, such amendment or amendments shall become a part of the Constitution of this State."

"If two or more amendments shall be submitted at the same time, they shall be submitted in such manner that the electors shall vote for or against each of such amendments separately."

Pathway 2: (Convention)

"[At the general election to be held in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy, and in each tenth year thereafter, and also at such times as the General Assembly may, by law, provide, the question, Shall there be a Convention to revise the Constitution, and amend the same? Shall be decided by the electors qualified to vote for members of the General Assembly; and in case a majority of the electors so qualified, voting at such election, for and against such proposition, shall decide in favor of a Convention for such purpose, the General Assembly, at its next session, shall provide by law for the election of delegates to such Convention.]"*

What this means in practice:

Pathway 1: (Legislature)

- Step 1: Amendment may be proposed in either House of the General Assembly and shall be agreed upon by a majority of the members elected to each of the two Houses and referred to the Legislature to be chosen at the next general election.
- Step 2: Amendment is published for three months previous to the time of said election.

- Step 3: A vote in favor of said amendment through a majority vote of all members elected to each House in the General Assembly so next chosen passes the amendment to the people.
- Step 4: Amendment shall become part of the constitution if agreed upon by a majority of electors.

Pathway 2: (Convention)

- Step 1: The question of a convention is proposed to the electors for the propose of proposing an amendment. In addition, in every tenth year from the year 1870, the questions shall be proposed to the electors as to whether there should be a convention.
- Step 2: The General Assembly, at its next session, shall provide by law for the election of delegates to such convention.