

[Commonwealth Act No. 34, September 30, 1936]

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE HOLDING OF A PLEBISCITE ON THE QUESTION OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Be it enacted by the National Assembly of the Philippines:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to the provisions of Article V of the Constitution, there shall be held a plebiscite on Friday, April thirty, nineteen hundred and thirty-seven, on the question of woman suffrage. On said date all qualified women, as hereinafter provided, may vote either in favor or against the granting of such suffrage.

Said Article V of the Constitution shall be published in the Official Gazette, in English and in Spanish, for three consecutive issues at least fifteen days prior to said election, and the said Article V shall be posted in a conspicuous place in each municipal and provincial office building and in each polling place not later than the twenty-second day of April, nineteen hundred and thirty-seven, and shall remain posted therein continually until after the termination of the plebiscite. At least ten copies of the said Article V of the Constitution, in English and in Spanish, shall be kept at each polling place available for examination by the qualified electors during the plebiscite. Whenever practicable, copies in the principal native languages, as may be determined by the Secretary of the Interior, shall also be kept in each polling place.

SEC. 2. Every female citizen of the Philippines, twenty-one years of age, or over, who shall have been a resident of the Philippines for one year and of the municipality wherein she proposes to vote for at least six months next preceding the plebiscite and who possesses the qualifications required by existing law for male voters, but without the disqualifications therein specified, is entitled to vote in said plebiscite.

SEC. 3. The provisions of the Election Law regarding the holding of a special election, in so far as said provisions are not in conflict herewith, are hereby declared applicable to the plebiscite provided for in this Act. Four watchers shall be appointed for each polling place in every municipality by the women's club organized therein, or in default of any women's organization, by the National Federation of Women's Club. The same number of watchers shall be allowed to groups or organizations opposed to woman suffrage.

SEC. 4. In specially organized provinces, whenever necessary, the provincial boards shall, under the supervision of the Secretary of the Interior, provide for the formation or election precincts in every municipality or municipal district, shall designate the proper polling places, and shall appoint election inspectors and poll clerks with their respective substitutes.

SEC. 5. The election precincts shall remain as now established and the polling places shall be the same unless the municipal council or board concerned shall designate a different place on or before April first, nineteen hundred and thirty-seven.

SEC. 6. The existing boards of election inspectors shall meet, for the registration of

voters, for the purposes of this Act on April tenth and seventeenth, nineteen hundred and thirty-seven, between the hours of seven in the morning and seven in the afternoon: *Provided, however,* That if upon the stroke of seven o'clock in the evening on either of the two days designated for registration and the revision of the list there still remain women who desire to be registered, the election inspectors shall make a list of those present at said hour within a radius of thirty meters from the polling place and shall hand each of them a consecutively numbered card, and upon presentation of said card, the registration of said women shall be permitted after seven o'clock in the evening. Before registering any female voter, the board of election inspectors shall require each registrant to fill out and sign, under oath before said board of election inspectors, an identification card, showing her name in full; her age on her last birthday; her civil status; her citizenship; length of residence in the Philippines; length of residence in the municipality where she proposes to vote; and whether she is able to read and write any native language, Spanish or English. Printed forms for this purpose shall be furnished each registrant. Each election inspector and poll clerk shall receive two pesos for each day of actual service rendered by him as required by this Act.

Women possessing the qualifications of a male voter may be appointed poll clerks for the plebiscite.

SEC. 7. All judicial proceedings for the inclusion or exclusion of voters shall be free of charge and shall be filed not later than the twenty-third day of April nineteen hundred and thirty-seven, and shall be finally decided on or before the twenty-sixth day of April, nineteen hundred and thirty-seven. The board of election inspectors shall hold its last meeting on April twenty-eight, nineteen hundred and thirty-seven, for the purpose specified in section four hundred and thirty-nine of the Election Law.

SEC. 8. The ballots to be used in the plebiscite shall be printed in English and in Spanish and shall conform to the following form:

OFFICIAL BALLOT
BALOTA OFFICIAL

THE QUESTION OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE

is submitted in this plebiscite to the female citizens of the Philippines, in order that they may vote either in favor or against the granting of such suffrage, pursuant to the provisions of Article V of the Constitution which reads as follows:

"SECTION 1. Suffrage may be exercised by male citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law, who are twenty-one years of age or over and are able to read and write, and who shall have resided in the Philippines for one year and in the municipality wherein they propose to vote for at least six months preceding the election. The National Assembly shall extend the right of suffrage to women, if in a plebiscite which shall be held for that purpose within two years after the adoption of this Constitution, not less than three hundred thousand women possessing the necessary qualifications shall vote affirmatively on the question."

If you are in favor of woman suffrage answer "Yes," and if you are against, answer "No" in the corresponding square.