
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4218

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1996 Regular Session

By Representatives Stevens and Boldt

Read first time 01/24/96. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

3 THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state there
4 shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their
5 approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article IV,
6 section 3 of the Constitution of the state of Washington and an
7 amendment to Article II of the Constitution of the state of Washington
8 by adding a new section to read as follows:

9 Article II, section . . . (1) Except as provided in this
10 subsection: No person is eligible to be elected or appointed to serve
11 more than twelve years in the same office of the judicial branch of
12 state or local government; no person is eligible to be elected or
13 appointed to serve more than twelve years as a judge of the supreme
14 court; no person is eligible to be elected or appointed to serve more
15 than twelve years as a judge of the court of appeals; no person is
16 eligible to be elected or appointed to serve more than twelve years as
17 a judge of the superior court; no person is eligible to be elected or
18 appointed to serve more than twelve years as a judge of the district
19 court.

20 If four years have elapsed between the time a person last served in
21 an office governed by this section and the time the person would again

1 serve in the office, the person's service in that office before those
2 four years is not counted in determining the person's eligibility to
3 serve in the office under this section. For an office governed by this
4 section, a person's service in a term of the office initiated before
5 the effective date of this section is to be counted in determining the
6 person's eligibility to serve in the office under this section.

7 (2) No person who holds one office governed by subsection (1) of
8 this section may, while holding that office, file as a candidate for
9 any other office governed by this section, unless the person is in the
10 last year of the full term of the office. Nothing in this subsection
11 prevents a person from resigning one office to file as a candidate for
12 another office.

13 Article IV, section 3. The judges of the supreme court shall be
14 elected by the qualified electors of the state at large at the general
15 state election at the times and places at which state officers are
16 elected, unless some other time be provided by the legislature. The
17 first election of judges of the supreme court shall be at the election
18 which shall be held upon the adoption of this Constitution and the
19 judges elected thereat shall be classified by lot, so that two shall
20 hold their office for the term of three years, two for the term of five
21 years, and one for the term of seven years. The lot shall be drawn by
22 the judges who shall for that purpose assemble at the seat of
23 government, and they shall cause the result thereof to be certified to
24 the secretary of state, and filed in his office. The judge having the
25 shortest term to serve not holding his office by appointment or
26 election to fill a vacancy, shall be the chief justice, and shall
27 preside at all sessions of the supreme court, and in case there shall
28 be two judges having in like manner the same short term, the other
29 judges of the supreme court shall determine which of them shall be
30 chief justice. In case of the absence of the chief justice, the judge
31 having in like manner the shortest or next shortest term to serve shall
32 preside. After the first election and before the election held in
33 nineteen hundred and ninety-six, the terms of judges elected shall be
34 six years. Beginning with the election held in nineteen hundred and
35 ninety-six, the term of office of each judge of the supreme court
36 elected to a full term is four years. The terms of office of the
37 judges are from and after the second Monday in January next succeeding
38 their election. If a vacancy occurs in the office of a judge of the
39 supreme court the governor shall appoint a person to hold the office

1 until the election and qualification of a judge to fill the vacancy,
2 which election shall take place at the next succeeding general
3 election, and the judge so elected shall hold the office for the
4 remainder of the unexpired term. The term of office of the judges of
5 the supreme court, first elected, shall commence as soon as the state
6 shall have been admitted into the Union, and continue for the term
7 herein provided, and until their successors are elected and qualified.
8 The sessions of the supreme court shall be held at the seat of
9 government until otherwise provided by law.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the foregoing amendment shall be
11 construed as a single amendment within the meaning of Article XXIII,
12 section 1 of the state Constitution.

13 The legislature finds that the changes contained in the foregoing
14 amendment constitute a single integrated plan for revising procedures
15 for filling vacancies in state and local judicial elective offices. If
16 the foregoing amendment is held to be separate amendments, this joint
17 resolution is void in its entirety and is of no further force and
18 effect.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause
20 notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at
21 least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in
22 every legal newspaper in the state.

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