
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8203

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senator Jacobsen

Read first time 01/14/09. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

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 the
4 secretary of state shall submit to the qualified voters of the state
5 for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to
6 Article IV, section 3 of the Constitution of the state of Washington to
7 read as follows:

8 Article IV, section 3. The judges of the supreme court shall be
9 elected by the qualified electors of the state at large at the general
10 state election at the times and places at which state officers are
11 elected, unless some other time be provided by the legislature. The
12 first election of judges of the supreme court shall be at the election
13 which shall be held upon the adoption of this Constitution and the
14 judges elected thereat shall be classified by lot, so that two shall
15 hold their office for the term of three years, two for the term of five
16 years, and one for the term of seven years. The lot shall be drawn by
17 the judges who shall for that purpose assemble at the seat of
18 government, and they shall cause the result thereof to be certified to
19 the secretary of state, and filed in his office. The supreme court

1 shall select a chief justice from its own membership to serve for a
2 four-year term at the pleasure of a majority of the court as prescribed
3 by supreme court rule. The chief justice shall preside at all sessions
4 of the supreme court. In case of the absence of the chief justice, the
5 majority of the remaining court shall select one of their members to
6 serve as acting chief justice. After the first election the terms of
7 judges elected shall be six years from and after the second Monday in
8 January next succeeding their election. If a vacancy occurs in the
9 office of a judge of the supreme court the governor shall only appoint
10 a person to ensure the number of judges as specified by the
11 legislature, to hold the office until the election and qualification of
12 a judge to fill the vacancy, which election shall take place at the
13 next succeeding general election, and the judge so elected shall hold
14 the office for the remainder of the unexpired term. The term of office
15 of the judges of the supreme court, first elected, shall commence as
16 soon as the state shall have been admitted into the Union, and continue
17 for the term herein provided, and until their successors are elected
18 and qualified. The sessions of the supreme court shall be held at the
19 seat of government until otherwise provided by law. However, the
20 legislature may enact a statute requiring the governor to fill such a
21 vacancy from a list of three or more persons recommended by a
22 nonpartisan commission comprising not less than seven members, the
23 majority of whom shall be nonattorney members, and the membership of
24 which shall be geographically representative and ethnically diverse.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause
26 notice of this constitutional amendment to be published at least four
27 times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal
28 newspaper in the state.

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