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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8204**

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**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 as provided by statute to ensure the number of judges as  
11 specified by the legislature, to hold the office until the election and  
12 qualification of a judge to fill the vacancy, which election shall take  
13 place at the next succeeding general election, and the judge so elected  
14 shall hold the office for the remainder of the unexpired term. The  
15 term of office of the judges of the supreme court, first elected, shall  
16 commence as soon as the state shall have been admitted into the Union,  
17 and continue for the term herein provided, and until their successors  
18 are elected and qualified. The sessions of the supreme court shall be  
19 held at the seat of government until otherwise provided by law.

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

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