
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4217

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Shea, Young, Taylor, Scott, McCaslin, Condotta,
and Holy

Read first time 02/05/16. 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
7 to 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
10 general state election at the times and places at which state
11 officers are elected, unless some other time be provided by the
12 legislature. The first election of judges of the supreme court shall
13 be at the election which shall be held upon the adoption of this
14 Constitution and the judges elected thereat shall (~~be classified by~~
15 ~~lot, so that two shall~~) hold their office for the term of (~~three~~)
16 four years(~~, two for the term of five years, and one for the term of~~
17 ~~seven years. The lot shall be drawn by the judges who shall for that~~
18 ~~purpose assemble at the seat of government, and they shall cause the~~
19 ~~result thereof to be certified to the secretary of state, and filed~~
20 ~~in his office~~)). The supreme court shall select a chief justice from
21 its own membership to serve for a four-year term at the pleasure of a
22 majority of the court as prescribed by supreme court rule. The chief

1 justice shall preside at all sessions of the supreme court. In case
2 of the absence of the chief justice, the majority of the remaining
3 court shall select one of their members to serve as acting chief
4 justice. After the first election the terms of judges elected shall
5 be (~~six~~) four years from and after the second Monday in January
6 next succeeding their election. The judges of the supreme court shall
7 not serve more than two four-year terms. If a vacancy occur in the
8 office of a judge of the supreme court the governor shall only
9 appoint a person to ensure the number of judges as specified by the
10 legislature, to hold the office until the election and qualification
11 of a judge to fill the vacancy, which election shall take place at
12 the next succeeding general election, and the judge so elected shall
13 hold the office for the remainder of the unexpired term. The term of
14 office of the judges of the supreme court, first elected, shall
15 commence as soon as the state shall have been admitted into the
16 Union, and continue for the term herein provided, and until their
17 successors are elected and qualified. The sessions of the supreme
18 court shall be held at the seat of government until otherwise
19 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
23 legal newspaper in the state.

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