
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8217

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senators Walsh and Hunt

Read first time 02/04/20. Referred to Committee on State Government,
Tribal Relations & Elections.

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 II, sections 5 and 6 of the Constitution of the state of
7 Washington to read as follows:

8 Article II, section 5. The next election of the members of the
9 house of representatives after the adoption of this Constitution
10 shall be on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November,
11 eighteen hundred and ninety, and thereafter, (~~members of the house~~
12 ~~of representatives shall be elected biennially and~~) their term of
13 office shall be (~~two~~) four years, with one-half of their number
14 retiring every two years; and each election shall be on the first
15 Tuesday after the first Monday in November, unless otherwise changed
16 by law. The legislature shall provide by law for the transition to
17 staggered four-year terms to be phased in at the 2022 and 2024
18 elections.

19 Article II, section 6. After the first election the senators
20 shall be elected by single districts of convenient and contiguous
21 territory, at the same time and in the same manner as members of the
22 house of representatives are required to be elected; and no

1 representative district shall be divided in the formation of a
2 senatorial district. They shall be elected for the term of (~~four~~)
3 six years, (~~one-half~~) one-third of their number retiring every two
4 years. (~~The senatorial districts shall be numbered consecutively,~~
5 ~~and the senators chosen at the first election had by virtue of this~~
6 ~~Constitution, in odd numbered districts, shall go out of office at~~
7 ~~the end of the first year; and the senators, elected in the even~~
8 ~~numbered districts, shall go out of office at the end of the third~~
9 ~~year.)) The legislature shall provide by law for the transition to
10 staggered six-year terms to be phased in at the 2022, 2024, 2026, and
11 2028 elections.~~

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

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the amendment is a single amendment
17 within the meaning of Article XXIII, section 1 of the state
18 Constitution.

19 The legislature finds that the changes contained in this
20 amendment constitute a single integrated plan for the extension of
21 legislative terms. If this amendment is held to be separate
22 amendments, this joint resolution is void in its entirety and is of
23 no further force and effect.

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