
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8414

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senators Lovick, Torres, Billig, Boehnke, Cleveland, Conway, Dhingra, Frame, Holy, Hunt, Keiser, Kuderer, Lias, Lovelett, Muzzall, Nguyen, Nobles, Pedersen, Rivers, Saldaña, Shewmake, Stanford, Wagoner, Warnick, Wellman, C. Wilson, and J. Wilson; by request of Lieutenant Governor

Prefiled 01/05/24. Read first time 01/08/24. Referred to Committee on State Government & Elections.

1 WHEREAS, There are increasing concerns about the state of civic
2 health in America and Washington state; and

3 WHEREAS, A recent public opinion survey in Washington state
4 revealed that 89% of citizens agree or strongly agree that they are
5 "worried about the future of our democracy"; and

6 WHEREAS, The same survey also revealed that nearly one in four
7 Washingtonians have "stopped talking to a friend or relative because
8 of politics"; and

9 WHEREAS, Additional research underscores a decline in respectful
10 discourse in the public square and a material decline in confidence
11 in public institutions; and

12 WHEREAS, In response to this crisis there has been a surge in
13 local and national organizations designed to improve civic health;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, One of these organizations is the Project for Civic
16 Health, a partnership of the Office of Lieutenant Governor, the
17 University of Washington's Evans School, the Ruckelshaus Center, and
18 the Henry M. Jackson Foundation; and

19 WHEREAS, The Project for Civic Health has worked for the last
20 year to develop a deeper understanding of the nature of the problem
21 by conducting focus groups and holding a "summit" involving nearly
22 200 diverse Washington citizens to develop recommendations on a path
23 forward; and

1 WHEREAS, Among the many ideas generated by the Project for Civic
2 Health was the creation of a Joint Committee on Civic Health of the
3 Washington State Legislature, the purpose of which would be to build
4 upon the Project's work to date to strengthen our democratic
5 republic;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate, the House of
7 Representatives concurring, That a joint select committee on Civic
8 Health be established to build upon the work of the Project for Civic
9 Health; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Committee consist of 13 members:
11 The Lieutenant Governor; three members of the majority party of the
12 Senate and three members of the minority party of the Senate, to be
13 selected by the President of the Senate; and three members of the
14 majority party of the House of Representatives and three members of
15 the minority party of the House of Representatives, to be selected by
16 the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Lieutenant Governor shall be
18 chair of the committee and one member of the majority party and one
19 member from the minority party from opposite chambers shall serve as
20 Vice Chairs; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall operate in full
22 accordance with the Joint Rules; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, All expenses and hiring of additional
24 staff shall be subject to the approval of the House of
25 Representatives Executive Rules Committee and the Senate Facilities
26 and Operations Committee; and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee will issue its
28 preliminary recommendations and report to the legislature prior to
29 the 2025 regular session and its final recommendations and report
30 prior to 2026 regular session at which time the committee shall cease
31 to exist.

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