

AN ACT

TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR THEIR APPROVAL OR REJECTION

AT THE

GENERAL ELECTION

TO BE HELD

On Tuesday, the Seventh day of November, 1916,

Passed by the Legislature and Proposed to the People by Referendum Petition, filed in the office of Secretary of State February 11, 1916, commonly known as Political Conventions Measure.

(Will appear on the official ballot in the following form)

PROPOSED TO THE PEOPLE BY REFERENDUM PETITION.

REFERENDUM MEASURE NO. 5, entitled "An act relating to, regulating and providing for the nomination of candidates for public office in the State of Washington, providing for the holding of elections to elect delegates to conventions, providing for the holding of county and state conventions by political parties, defining the powers and duties of conventions and party committees, providing for the election of party committeemen, amending sections 4804, 4807, 4809, 4810, 4811, 4826, 4843, and repealing section 4841 of Remington & Ballinger's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Washington."

To sustain the legislative act, vote "FOR."

FOR Political Conventions Measure.....

AGAINST Political Conventions Measure.....

Referendum Measure No. 5

BALLOT TITLE

"An act relating to, regulating and providing for the nomination of candidates for public office in the State of Washington, providing for the holding of elections to elect delegates to conventions, providing for the holding of county and state conventions by political parties, defining the powers and duties of conventions and party committees, providing for the election of party committeemen, amending sections 4804, 4807, 4809, 4810, 4811, 4826, 4843, and repealing section 4841 of Remington & Ballinger's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Washington."

AN ACT relating to, regulating and providing for the nomination of candidates for public office in the State of Washington, providing for the holding of elections to elect delegates to conventions, providing for the holding of county and state conventions by political parties, defining the powers and duties of conventions and party committees, providing for the election of party commit-

teemen, amending sections 4804, 4807, 4809, 4810, 4811, 4826, 4843, and repealing section 4841 of Remington & Ballinger's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Washington.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. That section 4804 of Remington & Ballinger's Annotated

Codes and Statutes of Washington be amended to read as follows:

Section 4804. The words and phrases in this act shall, unless the same be inconsistent with the context, be construed as follows:

(a) The word "primary," the primary election provided for in this act.

(b) The words "May caucus," the caucus held in May of 1916, and every even numbered year thereafter, to elect delegates, by political parties to the various county conventions of such political parties.

(c) The words "September primary," the primary election held in September to nominate candidates to be voted for at the ensuing election.

(d) The word "election," a general or city election, as distinguished from a primary election.

SEC. 2. That section 4807 of Remington & Ballinger's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Washington be amended to read as follows:

Section 4807. The name of no candidate shall be printed upon the official ballot used at the September primary election, unless authorized by some other law of the state, unless at least thirty (30) days and no more than sixty (60) days prior to such primary, a declaration of candidacy shall be filed by him, as provided in this act, in the following form:

State of Washington, }
County of..... } ss.

I,, being first duly sworn, say: That I reside at No..... (city or town), county of....., State of Washington, and am a qualified voter therein, and eligible to the office for which I am a candidate; that I affiliate with and am a member of the.....party, and believe in its principles; that I am a candidate for nomination to the office of..... to be made at the primary election, to be held on the.....day of September, 19...., and hereby request that my name be printed upon the official ballot as provided by law as a candidate of the.....party, and accompany herewith the sum of \$....., the fee required by law of me for becoming such candidate.

I further declare that, if nominated for said office I will accept said nomination and not withdraw, unless so authorized by my party committee, and I

will qualify as such officer if nominated and elected. I further declare that I hereby accept and endorse generally the platform as heretofore adopted by the said.....party at its last state convention. If elected, I hereby agree to support generally the same, and endeavor to have enacted into law the principles therein enunciated.

.....
Subscribed and sworn to before me this.....day of....., 19....

.....
(Certificate of official)

Provided, That no person who desires to become a candidate for office of supreme or superior court judge, shall certify his party affiliation, nor shall any other candidate who runs upon any nonpartisan ticket in any city or other municipality where the charter or enabling act provides that the office is nonpartisan.

SEC. 3. That section 4809 of Remington & Ballinger's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Washington be amended to read as follows:

Section 4809. Any political organization which at the general election last preceding the primary was represented on the official ballot by regular party candidates may upon complying with the provisions of this act have a separate primary election ticket as a political party: *Provided*, That any of its candidates received ten per cent. of the total vote cast as such last preceding general election in this state, or subdivision thereof in which the candidate seeks the nomination: *Provided further*, That such political party shall have held on or before the tenth day of June preceding said primary, a state convention in said state, at which convention said party shall have declared its political principles and its legislative program: *And provided further*, That a copy of such declaration of political principles and legislative program shall have been certified by the officers of such convention and filed with the secretary of state within ten days after the adjournment of such convention.

SEC. 4. (a) Hereafter, each political party of this state, entitled under the existing laws to participate in the September primaries, shall hold county and state conventions in May and June

respectively of 1916, and each biennial year thereafter. The county conventions shall be held by each of said political parties upon the second Saturday after the second Tuesday of May, 1916, and biennially thereafter.

(b) Each county party committee at a meeting duly called and held not more than thirty (30) nor less than twenty (20) days before the holding of the May caucus, shall determine the hour and place of holding the county convention, determine the total number of delegates to be elected thereto, fix the basis of representation in each precinct, which basis shall be the same for each voting precinct in said county, and determine the number of delegates from each voting precinct: *Provided*, That each voting precinct shall be entitled to at least one delegate. The said list, matters, and things herein provided for, shall thereupon be filed in the office of the county auditor, without charge, duly certified by the chairman and secretary of each party within two days after the holding of said meeting. Due notice of the time and place of holding the county convention shall be given through the press of the county by the county executive officers of each party and in addition thereto, the said notice shall be mailed to each delegate selected at the May caucus at least five (5) days before the holding of said convention.

(c) It shall be the duty of the state organizations of each of the political parties entitled to hold conventions under this act, to issue a call for their state conventions, specifying the time and place of holding the conventions, and which said call shall be issued not less than thirty (30) days before the holding of the May caucus by giving due notice thereof through the press, and by mailing a copy of said call to each state committeeman, and to the executive officer of each of the county organizations of that party, and to the county auditor of each county. The state committee, in its call, shall determine upon the total number of delegates to attend the state convention, and shall fix the basis of representation for, and the number of delegates from each county: *Provided, however*, That the basis of representation for each county shall be the same. The state conventions herein provided for shall be held on or before the tenth

day of June, 1916, and biennially thereafter.

(d) In addition to the usual powers heretofore exercised by county conventions, each county convention shall select the number of delegates to the state convention provided for in the call of the state committee, and shall select one member of a state advisory platform committee.

(e) It shall be the duty of the members of the advisory committee herein provided for, to meet at the place of holding the state convention at 10 a. m. on the Monday preceding the holding of said state convention and shall hold public hearings and submit to the state convention an advisory platform.

(f) It shall be the duty of the state conventions of each of the parties required to hold conventions as herein provided, to adopt a platform, and to make a clear and concise statement of its principles and its general legislative program. In addition thereto the said state conventions, shall have the powers and perform the duties heretofore and usually held and performed by state conventions; and shall elect the delegates to the national conventions in 1916, and each presidential year thereafter as provided for in the call of the national committee of said party; and shall have the power to nominate the presidential electors, to which the said state shall be entitled and the names of which said electors shall be printed under the party designation on the ballot to be used in the succeeding general election.

(g) The delegates to the various county conventions herein provided for shall be selected at a caucus held by each political party, on the second Tuesday of May, 1916, and biennially thereafter, in accordance with the provisions and method now provided by sections 4844, 4845, 4846, 4847, 4848, 4849, 4850, 4851, 4852, 4853, 4854, 4855, 4856, 4857, 4858, 4859, 4860, 4861, 4862, 4863, 4864, 4865, 4866, 4867 and 4868 of Remington & Ballinger's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Washington.

(h) No proxies shall be allowed in any conventions provided for in this act.

SEC. 5. That section 4810 of Remington & Ballinger's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Washington be amended to read as follows:

Section 4810. All declarations of candidacy shall be filed as follows:

First: For state officers, United States senators, representatives in Congress, and those members of the state legislature and judges of the superior court, whose district comprises more than one county,—in the office of the secretary of state.

Second: For officers to be voted for wholly in one county, in the office of the county auditor of such county.

Third: For precinct committeemen of the various parties, in the office of the county auditor of such county.

Fourth: For city officers, in the office of the city clerk.

SEC. 6. That section 4811 of Remington & Ballinger's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Washington be amended to read as follows:

Section 4811. First: At least twenty (20) days before any September primary the secretary of state shall transmit to each county auditor a certified list containing the name, postoffice address and party designation of each person entitled to be voted for at such primary, and the office for which he is a candidate, as appears by the nomination papers filed in his office.

Second: Each county auditor shall at least fifteen (15) days before the September primary, publish once under the proper party designation and title of each office, the names and addresses of all persons for whom nominations have been filed, insofar as the same shall affect the electors of his county, giving the date of the primary, the hours during which the polls will be open, and that the primary will be held in the regular polling place in each precinct; and shall cause to be posted, copies of such notice in at least three public places in each precinct in his county: *Provided*, That the names of all candidates for the office of supreme and superior court judges shall be published and posted in a separate list without party designation: *And provided*, That the names and addresses of the persons who have filed for precinct committeemen in the various precincts need not be published, but shall, however, be included in the lists herein provided to be posted.

SEC 7. That section 4826 of Remington & Ballinger's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Washington be amended to read as follows:

Section 4826. (a) The precinct committeemen of each party entitled to participate in the September primaries, shall be elected at the September primary. Any elector duly qualified to vote in his precinct may file without charge with the auditor, a declaration of candidacy for precinct committeeman with the party only with which he is affiliated, and for the election precinct in which he resides. Said filing shall be in all respects and follow the form provided in section 2 of this act and be governed by its provisions. The names of each candidate for precinct committeemen shall be printed upon the ballot provided for in section 4813 of Remington & Ballinger's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Washington, provided he has fully complied with this act with reference to the filing: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall prevent any voter from writing in on the ticket the name of one qualified elector of the precinct for member of the party county committee. The one having the highest number of votes, shall be such committeeman of such party for such precinct: *Provided*, That if any elector is elected on more than one ticket, he must file his declination of candidacy from all except one ticket with the auditor of his said county within five (5) days after the canvassing of the primary vote, otherwise the office will be deemed vacant: *And provided further*, That the auditor shall determine cases of ties as are provided by the primary election laws of this state. The county auditor shall certify to each party committee the names of the duly elected committeemen of that party.

(b) The party committee of each county shall consist of the precinct committeemen from the several precincts of each county. The state committee shall consist of one committeeman from each county, elected by the county committee. The county committee shall meet for the purpose of electing the state committeeman, and for the purpose of organization, at the courthouse at the county seat of each county at two o'clock p. m. on the second Saturday after such primary election, unless some other time and place of such meeting shall be designated by the regular call of properly authorized officers of the retiring committee. The county auditor of the various counties

shall issue certificates of election to the said committeemen as is provided in the case of primary nominations.

(c) Each political organization shall have the power to make its own rules and regulations, call conventions, elect delegates to conventions, state and national, fill all vacancies on the ticket, provide for the nomination of presidential electors, delegate the whole or any part of its functions to duly authorized and elected committees, and perform all other functions inherent to such organizations, the same as if this act had not been passed: *Provided, however,* That no convention held under the provisions of this act shall have the power to recommend, endorse or declare a preference for any candidate for any office.

SEC. 8. That section 4843 of Remington & Ballinger's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Washington be amended to read as follows:

Section 4843. Nothing in this act contained shall prevent any voter from writing or pasting on his ballot or ballots the name of any person for whom he desires to vote for any office, and such vote shall be counted the same as if printed upon the ballot and marked by the voter, but no person, precinct committeemen alone excepted, receiving such votes written or pasted upon a primary election ballot shall thereby be nominated for any office or be en-

titled to have his name printed upon the ballot as a candidate at the general election unless he shall have complied with the provisions of the primary election law and filed his declaration of candidacy at least thirty days before such primary election, unless such candidate shall have been selected as such by a party convention in accordance with law or certified by a county or state central committee in accordance with law.

SEC. 9. That section 4841 of Remington & Ballinger's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Washington be hereby repealed.

SEC. 10. All existing statutes or portions of statutes inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed. If any section of this act should be held unconstitutional it shall in no wise affect the constitutionality of the remainder thereof.

Passed the Senate February 20, 1915.

Passed the House March 3, 1915.

Vetoed by the Governor March 9, 1915.

Passed over the Governor's veto March 10, 1915.

STATE OF WASHINGTON—ss.

Filed in the office of Secretary of State, March 25, 1915.

I. M. HOWELL, Secretary of State.

REFERENDUM MEASURE NO. 5

Argument in Favor of Referendum and in Favor of Bill as Enacted.

All honest and patriotic students of history agree that government through political parties is most successful and most responsive to popular will. This is especially true of our American government. Political parties are voluntary associations of individuals believing in same principles and united to secure effective action.

This measure, attacked by Referendum No. 5, will strengthen the direct primary system, not destroy it; will definitely fix the status of candidates as well as parties; eliminate confusion, and prevent invasion of primary of one party by political dummies of another.

The bill as enacted makes the following changes in present law:

(a) Requires all 10 per cent. parties to hold pre-primary County and State Conventions in May and June of each biennial year, to adopt platforms and general legislative programs. All parties thus go before people with clear-cut issues. All parties already hold voluntary conventions, and this provision, clearly safeguarding party memberships, guarantees all people the fulfillment of party promises.

(b) Delegates to County conventions must be selected from precincts at caucuses held under sworn officers, but not at state expense. Every citizen may participate; "hand-picking" absolutely prohibited; no delegate can be selected by committee. Delegates to State conventions elected by County conventions, *and in no other way*. State Conventions elect delegates to National Conventions, and nominate Presidential Electors, as now.

(c) Candidates filing under party name must endorse party platform generally and agree not to withdraw from nomination unless authorized by party committee. What honest candidate can object to this? No man has a right to file under party name unless believing in party platform; nor to file as dummy for purpose of withdrawing in interest of candidate of another party.

(d) Each County convention must elect one member of state advisory platform committee; committee must meet three days before State Convention, hold public hearings and submit to convention an advisory platform. Back-room and Vest-pocket platforms eliminated.

(e) Proxies in any conventions absolutely prohibited.

(f) Conventions prohibited from endorsing or nominating candidates.

(g) County and State platforms must be filed with County and State Auditors respectively, with convention records and lists of delegates.

(h) Published calls for all conventions mandatory.

(i) Candidates for precinct committeemen to file candidacy with county auditor without charge; names to go on ballot. Tie votes must be settled and candidates elected on more than one ticket must withdraw from all parties but one, insuring representative committeemen.

(j) Section 8 places sticker candidates and those filing regularly on same basis. Prevents practice common in some parties of hand-picking candidates by committee, shutting out other aspirants, and nominating by a few sticker votes. Provision does not apply to newly organized parties nor those casting under 10 per cent. of votes.

(k) County party committees composed, as now, of precinct committeemen regularly elected; State committee composed, as now, of one committeeman from each county, elected by county committee. Executive officers chosen by committees to perform only functions specifically delegated *and no others*. This provision prevents hand-picking by committee officers, or nominating, or other use of arbitrary power.

There are no "jokers" in this law as enacted by the legislature. On the contrary, it eliminates "jokers" incident to present system and corrects its

defects; puts the people in direct control of party organizations, ends bossism by individuals or committees; prevents packed primaries and conventions. Under this law political parties are compelled to say what they stand for and what they will do, and party candidates, held in bounds of honor and decency, are made directly responsible to people for their conduct in office. No dishonesty is more shameful than that of political opportunists who become candidates of any party which seems to assure election, and who, in office, repudiate all such party has promised to the people.

This bill provides for conduct of party affairs in definite, orderly, representative manner, with complete and uninterrupted power vested in the voters themselves. Every honest and patriotic citizen should vote to sustain this law.

REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE,

MILLARD T. HARTSON, *Chairman.*

STATE OF WASHINGTON—ss.

Filed in the office of Secretary of State,
June 29, 1915.

I. M. HOWELL, Secretary of State.