

An Amendment to the State Constitution

To Be Submitted to the Qualified Electors of the State for Their Approval
or Rejection at the

GENERAL ELECTION

TO BE HELD ON

Tuesday, November 2, 1948

CONCISE STATEMENT

PROPOSED AMENDMENT to the Constitution permitting the formation, under a charter, of combined city and county municipal corporations having a population of 300,000 or more.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

Be It Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Washington in legislative session assembled:

That, at the general election to be held in this state on the Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday of November, 1948, there shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the state, for their approval and ratification, or rejection, a proposed amendment to article XI of the State Constitution by the addition thereto of a new section, to be known as section 16, which shall read as follows:

Section 16. The legislature shall, by general law, provide for the formation of combined city and county municipal corporations, and for the manner of determining the territorial limits thereof, each of which shall be known as a "city and county," and, when organized, shall contain a population of at least three hundred thousand (300,000) inhabitants. No such city and county shall be formed except by a majority vote of the qualified electors of the area proposed to be included therein and also by a majority vote of the qualified electors of the remainder of that county from which such area is to be taken. Any such city and county shall be permitted to frame a

charter for its own government, and amend the same, in the manner provided for cities by section 10 of this article: *Provided, however*, That the first charter of such city and county shall be framed and adopted in a manner to be specified in the general law authorizing the formation of such corporations: *Provided further*, That every such charter shall designate the respective officers of such city and county who shall perform the duties imposed by law upon county officers. Every such city and county shall have and enjoy all rights, powers and privileges asserted in its charter, not inconsistent with general laws, and in addition thereto, such rights, powers and privileges as may be granted to it, or possessed and enjoyed by cities and counties of like population separately organized.

No county or county government existing outside the territorial limits of such county and city shall exercise any police, taxation or other powers within the territorial limits of such county and city, but all such powers shall be exercised by the city and county and the officers thereof, subject to such constitutional provisions and general laws as apply to either cities or counties: *Provided*, That the provisions of sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of this article shall not apply

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to any such city and county: *Provided further*, That the salary of any elective or appointive officer of a city and county shall not be changed after his election or appointment or during his term of office; nor shall the term of any such officer be extended beyond the period for which he is elected or appointed. In case an existing county is divided in the formation of a city and county, such city and county shall be liable for a just proportion of the existing debts or liabilities of the former county, and shall account for and pay the county remaining a just proportion of the value of any real estate or other property owned by the former county and taken over by the county and city, the method of determining such just proportion to be prescribed by general law, but such division shall not affect the rights of creditors. The officers of a city and county, their compensation, qualifica-

tions, term of office and manner of election or appointment shall be as provided for in its charter, subject to general laws and applicable constitutional provisions.

And Be It Further Resolved, That the Secretary of State shall cause the foregoing proposed constitutional amendment to be published for at least three (3) months next preceding said election, in a weekly newspaper in every county where a newspaper is published throughout the state.

Adopted by the House, March 3, 1947.

HERBERT M. HAMBLÉN,
Speaker of the House.

Adopted by the Senate March 8, 1947.

VICTOR A. MEYERS,
President of the Senate.

STATE OF WASHINGTON—ss.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State, March 12, 1947.

EARL COE,
Secretary of State.