



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4212

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Note: The ballot title and explanatory statement were written by the Attorney General as required by law. The complete text of House Joint Resolution 4212 begins on page 17.

Vote cast by the 1987 Legislature on final passage:
HOUSE: Yeas, 78; Nays, 20; Absent or not voting, 0.
SENATE: Yeas, 33; Nays, 16; Absent or not voting, 0.

Official Ballot Title:

Shall the State Constitution be amended so legislative representatives will be elected for four years and senators for six years?

The law as it now exists:

All the members of the House of Representatives of the Washington State Legislature are now elected for two-year terms in elections occurring in even numbered years. The members of the Senate of the Washington State Legislature

are elected for four-year terms with approximately one-half of the senatorial seats up for election at each even year election.

The effect of HJR 4212, if approved into law:

The members of the House of Representatives of the State Legislature would be elected for four-year terms. Approximately one-half of the membership of the House would be elected in each even year election. There are two representatives in each legislative district, so as a transitional measure in the 1988 election, the representative receiving the largest vote in the district would be elected for a four-year term and the other representative would have a two-year term. The legislative position with the initial two-year term would in the 1990 election become a four-year term.

The members of the Washington State Senate of the Legislature would be elected for six-year terms with approximately one-third elected at each election. The 1988 and 1990 elections would result in some senators being elected for four years and others for six years to establish a pattern which by 1992 would result in all senators being elected to six-year terms.

Statement for

ARE LEGISLATORS DOING THE WORK THEY ARE ELECTED TO DO?

Immediately after each election state legislators begin fund-raising and planning for their next election. The current two-year terms for members of the House and four-year terms for state Senators give strong momentum to short-term popular positions which push real problems and their solutions to the future.

NEED FOR A CHANGE

Our state Constitution is a dynamic document that, with its many changes, reflects the changing views and needs of our state. One hundred years ago it made good sense to the drafters of our Constitution to set two- and four-year terms for our legislators. After all, they met once every two years for sixty days, probably approved about fifty new laws and then went home by horseback, steamboat and railroad for two years before they met again. Communication was slow and the demands created by public necessity were minimal.

Today, the Legislature meets every year, 105 days in odd years, 60 days in even years, and in numerous overtime sessions. Over 4,000 proposals for new laws are introduced every two years, and 400 to 500 new laws enacted. Our world has grown more complex and longer terms for legislators is the logical result of the more complex issues that must be addressed. This constitutional amendment would prohibit a member of the House of Representatives from running for the state Senate without first giving up their House seat, but would allow a representative to run for other offices without first giving up the House seat.

Rebuttal of Statement against

Longer terms *will* actually make your legislator more effective. Your legislator can better consider the many problems faced; give them careful scrutiny and not be ramrodded into a hasty decision because of momentary political or lobbyist pressure.

A six-year term for your senator will match that of your U.S. Senator. A four-year term for your representative means more attention to your problems, less to fund-raising and campaigning.

Your vote *FOR* HJR 4212 will give you a more responsible and responsive legislator.

Voters' Pamphlet Statement Prepared by:

LARRY L. VOGNILD, State Senator; SIMEON R. "SIM" WILSON; State Representative; RUTH FISHER, State Representative.

Advisory Committee: ALAN BLUECHEL, State Senator; GEORGE L. SELLAR, State Senator; PAT SCOTT, State Representative; GEORGE W. WALK, State Representative.

Statement against

The changes proposed in HJR 4212 are unnecessary and unwise. Lengthening the term of office for our legislators only would make state government more unyielding and less responsive to the will and needs of the people.

The length of our legislators' terms -- closely patterned on the length of congressional terms in office -- has been in effect for 100 years, and there is no valid reason to change it. Extending the duration of office by two years simply would make our elected representatives less accountable to the people of Washington State.

Why? Our citizen Legislature must maintain close ties with the electorate. The current system -- with two-year terms for the House of Representatives and four-year terms for the Senate -- requires constant communication between legislators and the public. The election process gives each voter the opportunity to hear regularly from his lawmakers and grade their performances. Limiting voters' opportunity to cast judgment on their lawmakers flies in the face of a democratic government.

Lengthening the span between elections would measurably weaken the voters' voice in government. It's true that election campaigns often are long, expensive and tiring -- but campaigns also are often the only chance many people have to see and visit with their legislators. Reducing the frequency of elections would curtail the communications that are so vital to a democratic, representative form of government.

Your vote against HJR 4212 will prevent a dilution of your voice in our state government.

Rebuttal of Statement for

Long-term solutions to problems result from hard work by quality lawmakers -- not longer terms of office.

Yes, our world is growing more complex, but our ability to understand and deal with problems is growing too. The media help keep us well informed on governmental issues and actions. Extending lawmakers' terms won't make the legislative process more effective or easier.

If legislators are spending too much time electioneering, the solution is campaign reform, not longer terms.

For additional information, call (206) 352-4446.

Voters' Pamphlet Statement Prepared by:

STUART A. "STU" HALSAN, State Senator; JAMES E. WEST, State Senator; TOM BRISTOW, State Representative.

Advisory Committee: CHUCK SAUVAGE, Washington State Common Cause; C. MONTGOMERY "GUMMIE" JOHNSON, Port Ludlow; CARL MAXEY, Spokane; LAWRENCE KENNEY, President, Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO; JACKIE BATTSON, Bellingham.



COMPLETE TEXT OF Senate Joint Resolution 8212

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state there shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article XVI, section 5 of the Constitution of the state of Washington to read as follows:

Article XVI, section 5. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 5 and 7 of Article VIII and section 9 of Article XII or any other section or article of the Constitution of the state of Washington, the permanent common school fund and other public land permanent funds of this state may be invested as authorized by law.

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



COMPLETE TEXT OF House Joint Resolution 4212

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state there shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article II of the Constitution of the state of Washington by repealing section 4 thereof and amending Article II, section 5 and Article II, section 6 of the state Constitution to read as follows:

Article II, section 4. Section 4, Article II of the Constitution of the state of Washington is repealed.

Article II, section 5. ~~((The next election of the members of the house of representatives after the adoption of this Constitution shall be on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November, eighteen hundred and ninety, and thereafter, members of the house of representatives shall be elected biennially and their term of office shall be two years; and each election shall be on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, unless otherwise changed by law.))~~ Members of the house of representatives shall be elected for terms of four years with as near to one-half of their number as is mathematically possible retiring every two years. At the general election to be held on the first Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in November 1988, the candidate in each representative district who receives the greatest number of votes shall be elected for a term of four years and thereafter for a term of four years, and at the same election the winning candidate in each representative district who receives the second highest number of votes shall be elected for a term of two years and thereafter for a term of four years.

Elections of the members of the house of representatives shall be on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November in each even-numbered year unless otherwise changed by law. Persons elected to the house of representatives shall serve four-year terms unless they resign or seek other legislative office.

Article II, section 6. ~~((After the first election))~~ The senators shall be elected by single districts of convenient and contiguous territory, ~~((at the same time and))~~ in the same manner as members of the house of representatives are required to be elected; and no representative district ~~((shall))~~ may be divided in the formation of a senatorial district. They shall be elected for ~~((the))~~ terms of ~~((four))~~ six years, ~~((one-half))~~ with as near to one-third of their number retiring every two years. The senatorial districts shall be numbered consecutively, and ~~((the senators chosen at the first election had by virtue of this Constitution, in odd numbered districts, shall go out of office at the end of the first year; and the senators, elected in the even numbered districts, shall go out of office at the end of the third year))~~ shall be divided into three groups: The first group to consist of every first district, the second to consist of every second district, and the third to consist of every third district. For those districts in which senators are to be elected in 1988 the term of office shall be four years for each district in the first and second groups and six years for each district in the third group; and thereafter in each district the term of office shall be six years. For those districts in which senators are to be elected in 1990, the term of office shall be four years for each district in the first group and six years for each district in the second and third groups; and thereafter in each district the term of office shall be six years.

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



COMPLETE TEXT OF House Joint Resolution 4220

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state there shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article IX, section 3 and an amendment to Article VII, section 2 of the Constitution of the state of Washington to read as follows:

Article IX, section 3. (1) The principal of the permanent common school fund as the same existed on June 30, 1965, and including any revenue dedicated to the fund from a state property tax shall remain permanent and irreducible.

(2) The ~~((said))~~ permanent common school fund shall consist of the principal amount ~~((thereof existing on June 30, 1965))~~ under subsection (1) of this section, and such additions thereto as may be derived after June 30, 1965, from the following named sources, to wit: Appropriations and donations by the state to this fund; donations and bequests by individuals to the state or public for common schools; the proceeds of lands and other property which revert to the state by escheat and forfeiture; the proceeds of all property granted to the state when the purpose of the grant is not specified, or is uncertain; funds accumulated in the treasury of the state for the disbursement of which provision has not been made by law; the proceeds of the sale of stone, minerals, or property other than timber