
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4202

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representative Dufault

Read first time 02/10/25. Referred to Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary.

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 IV, section 3 of the Constitution of the state of Washington
7 to read as follows:

8 Article IV, section 3. (~~The judges~~) (1) A justice of the
9 supreme court shall be elected by the qualified electors of (~~the~~
10 ~~state at large~~) a supreme court judicial district at the general
11 state election at the times and places at which state officers are
12 elected, unless some other time be provided by the legislature. (~~The~~
13 ~~first election of judges of the supreme court shall be at the~~
14 ~~election which shall be held upon the adoption of this Constitution~~
15 ~~and the judges elected thereat shall be classified by lot, so that~~
16 ~~two shall hold their office for the term of three years, two for the~~
17 ~~term of five years, and one for the term of seven years. The lot~~
18 ~~shall be drawn by the judges who shall for that purpose assemble at~~
19 ~~the seat of government, and they shall cause the result thereof to be~~
20 ~~certified to the secretary of state, and filed in his office.)) The
21 legislature shall by statute create the supreme court judicial
22 districts and specify the time and manner for holding the first~~

1 district-based election of justices and expiring the term of any
2 justice elected by the qualified electors of the state prior to the
3 creation of the supreme court judicial districts.

4 (2) The supreme court shall select a chief justice from its own
5 membership to serve for a four-year term at the pleasure of a
6 majority of the court as prescribed by supreme court rule. The chief
7 justice shall preside at all sessions of the supreme court. In case
8 of the absence of the chief justice, the majority of the remaining
9 court shall select one of their members to serve as acting chief
10 justice. After the first district-based election the terms of
11 ((judges)) justices elected shall be six years from and after the
12 second Monday in January next succeeding their election.

13 (3) If a vacancy occurs in the office of a ((judge)) justice of
14 the supreme court the governor shall only appoint a person to ensure
15 the number of ((judges)) justices as specified by the legislature
16 from the supreme court judicial district where the vacancy occurred,
17 to hold the office until the election and qualification of a
18 ((judge)) justice to fill the vacancy, which election shall take
19 place at the next succeeding general election, and the ((judge))
20 justice so elected shall hold the office for the remainder of the
21 unexpired term. (~~The term of office of the judges of the supreme~~
22 ~~court, first elected, shall commence as soon as the state shall have~~
23 ~~been admitted into the Union, and continue for the term herein~~
24 ~~provided, and until their successors are elected and qualified.))~~

25 (4) The sessions of the supreme court shall be held at the seat
26 of government until otherwise provided by law.

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

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