
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4203

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Abell, Couture, Marshall, Chase, Barnard, Keaton,
and Griffey

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

21 (2) The supreme court shall select a chief justice from its own
22 membership to serve for a four-year term at the pleasure of a

1 majority of the court as prescribed by supreme court rule. The chief
2 justice shall preside at all sessions of the supreme court. In case
3 of the absence of the chief justice, the majority of the remaining
4 court shall select one of their members to serve as acting chief
5 justice. After the first election the terms of ((judges)) justices
6 elected shall be six years from and after the second Monday in
7 January next succeeding their election.

8 (3) If a vacancy occurs in the office of a ((judge)) justice of
9 the supreme court the governor shall only appoint a person to ensure
10 the number of ((judges)) justices as specified by the legislature((7
11 to hold the office)) and subject to confirmation by the senate as
12 provided by statute. The person so confirmed shall hold the office
13 until the election and qualification of a ((judge)) justice to fill
14 the vacancy, which election shall take place at the next succeeding
15 general election, and the ((judge)) justice so elected shall hold the
16 office for the remainder of the unexpired term. ((The term of office
17 of the judges of the supreme court, first elected, shall commence as
18 soon as the state shall have been admitted into the Union, and
19 continue for the term herein provided, and until their successors are
20 elected and qualified.))

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

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

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