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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4209**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Fitzgibbon, Mena, Ramel, Reed, Thomas, Ormsby, and Hill

Prefiled 01/06/26. Read first time 01/12/26. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

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 II, section 43 of the Constitution of the state of Washington  
7 to read as follows:

8 Article II, section 43. (1) In January of each year ending in  
9 one, a commission shall be established to provide for the  
10 redistricting of state legislative and congressional districts.

11 (2) The commission shall be composed of five members to be  
12 selected as follows: The legislative leader of the two largest  
13 political parties in each house of the legislature shall appoint one  
14 voting member to the commission by January 15th of each year ending  
15 in one. By January 31st of each year ending in one, the four  
16 appointed members, by an affirmative vote of at least three, shall  
17 appoint the remaining member. The fifth member of the commission, who  
18 shall be nonvoting, shall act as its chairperson. If any appointing  
19 authority fails to make the required appointment by the date  
20 established by this subsection, within five days after that date the  
21 supreme court shall make the required appointment.

1 (3) No elected official and no person elected to legislative  
2 district, county, or state political party office may serve on the  
3 commission. A commission member shall not have been an elected  
4 official and shall not have been an elected legislative district,  
5 county, or state political party officer within two years of his or  
6 her appointment to the commission. The provisions of this subsection  
7 do not apply to the office of precinct committee person.

8 (4) The legislature shall enact laws providing for the  
9 implementation of this section, to include additional qualifications  
10 for commissioners and additional standards to govern the commission.  
11 The legislature shall appropriate funds to enable the commission to  
12 carry out its duties.

13 (5) Each district shall contain a population, excluding  
14 nonresident military personnel, as nearly equal as practicable to the  
15 population of any other district. To the extent reasonable, each  
16 district shall contain contiguous territory, shall be compact and  
17 convenient, and shall be separated from adjoining districts by  
18 natural geographic barriers, artificial barriers, or political  
19 subdivision boundaries. The commission's plan shall not provide for a  
20 number of legislative districts different than that established by  
21 the legislature. The commission's plan shall not be drawn purposely  
22 to favor or discriminate against any political party or group.

23 (6) The commission shall complete redistricting as soon as  
24 possible following the federal decennial census, but no later than  
25 November 15th of each year ending in one. At least three of the  
26 voting members shall approve such a redistricting plan. If three of  
27 the voting members of the commission fail to approve a plan within  
28 the time limitations provided in this subsection, the supreme court  
29 shall adopt a plan by April 30th of the year ending in two in  
30 conformance with the standards set forth in subsection (5) of this  
31 section.

32 (7) The legislature may amend the redistricting plan but must do  
33 so by a two-thirds vote of the legislators elected or appointed to  
34 each house of the legislature. Any amendment must have passed both  
35 houses by the end of the thirtieth day of the first session convened  
36 after the commission has submitted its plan to the legislature. After  
37 that day, the plan, with any legislative amendments, constitutes the  
38 state districting law.

39 (8) The legislature shall enact laws providing for the  
40 reconvening of a commission for the purpose of modifying a

1 districting law adopted under this section. Such reconvening requires  
2 a two-thirds vote of the legislators elected or appointed to each  
3 house of the legislature. The commission shall conform to the  
4 standards prescribed under subsection (5) of this section and any  
5 other standards or procedures that the legislature may provide by  
6 law. At least three of the voting members shall approve such a  
7 modification. Any modification adopted by the commission may be  
8 amended by a two-thirds vote of the legislators elected and appointed  
9 to each house of the legislature. The state districting law shall  
10 include the modifications with amendments, if any.

11 (9) If any state of the United States redistricts such state's  
12 congressional districts at any point following that state's adoption  
13 of a decennial districting law, but prior to the next decennial  
14 census, for a purpose other than as ordered by any state or federal  
15 court to remedy an unlawful or unconstitutional district map, the  
16 legislature may, before the next decennial census, amend the  
17 congressional districts of the districting law adopted under this  
18 section by a majority vote of the legislators elected or appointed to  
19 each house of the legislature. Each district shall contain a  
20 population, excluding nonresident military personnel, as nearly equal  
21 as practicable to the population of any other district. To the extent  
22 reasonable, each district shall contain contiguous territory, shall  
23 be compact and convenient, and shall be separated from adjoining  
24 districts by natural geographic barriers, artificial barriers, or  
25 political subdivision boundaries. The amended districting law adopted  
26 pursuant to this subsection shall take effect immediately after  
27 adoption and remain in effect until this subsection is triggered  
28 again or until adoption of the state districting law for the next  
29 decennial census.

30 (10) The legislature shall prescribe by law the terms of  
31 commission members and the method of filling vacancies on the  
32 commission.

33 ~~((10))~~ (11) The supreme court has original jurisdiction to hear  
34 and decide all cases involving congressional and legislative  
35 redistricting.

36 ~~((11))~~ (12) Legislative and congressional districts may not be  
37 changed or established except pursuant to this section. A districting  
38 plan and any legislative amendments to the plan are not subject to  
39 Article III, section 12 of this Constitution.

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

--- **END** ---