
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4212

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Representatives Rude, Abell, Volz, and Walen

Read first time 01/14/26. 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 15 of the Constitution of the state of Washington
7 to read as follows:

8 Article II, section 15. Such vacancies as may occur in either
9 house of the legislature or in any partisan county elective office
10 shall be filled by appointment by the county legislative authority of
11 the county in which the vacancy occurs: *Provided*, That the person
12 appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative
13 district, county, or county commissioner or council district and,
14 only if the elective officer whose office has been vacated declared a
15 political party preference at the time they were elected to the
16 legislative office or partisan county office, the appointee must be
17 from the same political party as the legislator or partisan county
18 elective officer whose office has been vacated((~~r~~)) and shall be one
19 of three persons who shall be nominated by the county central
20 committee of that party if applicable, and in case a majority of the
21 members of the county legislative authority do not agree upon the
22 appointment within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the governor

1 shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of nominees
2 provided for herein if applicable, appoint a person who shall be from
3 the same legislative district, county, or county commissioner or
4 council district and, if applicable, of the same political party as
5 the legislator or partisan county elective officer whose office has
6 been vacated, and the person so appointed shall hold office until his
7 or her successor is elected at the next general election, and has
8 qualified: *Provided*, That in case of a vacancy occurring after the
9 general election in a year that the office appears on the ballot and
10 before the start of the next term, the term of the successor who, if
11 applicable, is of the same party as the incumbent may commence once
12 he or she has qualified and shall continue through the term for which
13 he or she was elected: *Provided*, That in case of a vacancy occurring
14 in the office of joint senator, or joint representative, the vacancy
15 shall be filled from a list of three nominees selected by the state
16 central committees of the same party as the legislator whose office
17 has been vacated only if such legislator declared a political party
18 at the time they were elected to that legislative office, by
19 appointment by the joint action of the boards of county legislative
20 authorities of the counties composing the joint senatorial or joint
21 representative district, the person appointed to fill the vacancy
22 must be from the same legislative district and, if applicable, of the
23 same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated,
24 and in case a majority of the members of the county legislative
25 authority do not agree upon the appointment within sixty days after
26 the vacancy occurs, the governor shall within thirty days thereafter,
27 and from the list of nominees provided for herein if applicable,
28 appoint a person who shall be from the same legislative district and,
29 if applicable, of the same political party as the legislator whose
30 office has been vacated.

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

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