

FORMATTING NOTE:

In initiatives, legislative bills and other proposed measures, language that is to be deleted from current statutes is represented by a "strikethrough" character and language that is to be added is underlined. Because these special characters cannot be formatted in all Internet browsers, a different set of symbols is used for presenting these proposals on-line. The symbols are as follows:

- Text that is surrounded by (~~{- text here -}~~) is text that will be DELETED FROM the existing statute if the proposed measure is approved.
- Text that is surrounded by {+ text here +} is text that will be ADDED TO the existing statute if the proposed measure is approved.
- {+ NEW SECTION+} (found at the beginning of a section or paragraph) indicates that ALL of the text in that section will become law if the proposed measure is approved.

* * *

INITIATIVE 237

AN ACT Relating to requiring the Washington state legislature to call for a constitutional convention; and creating new sections.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 1. This initiative from the people of Washington state requires the Washington state legislature to enact legislation for the following purpose. Under the authority of Article Five of the United States Constitution, the Washington state government shall call for a constitutional convention to consider and establish a national initiative and referendum amendment according to the following text of this Washington state initiative.

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 2. SUGGESTED AMENDMENT 28:

UNITED STATES NATIONAL INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM AMENDMENT.

§ 1. GENERAL PURPOSE. (1) Return some of the power and responsibility directly back to the people by giving them the opportunity to consider and vote on new laws and policy questions at the federal level;

(2) Utilize modern technology to educate and better inform the American people so that they and the federal government can work together more effectively in the future;

(3) Try to simplify the language of federal law and establish a system to lessen wasteful, obsolete, unconstitutional, and conflicting federal laws, and their administration in a practical manner so the average citizen can be more involved;

(4) Due to the vast size and complexity of the federal government this national initiative and referendum system will bring primary issues and policies administered by a citizen elected administrative board that will maximize efforts to improve the general welfare of our country and its place in the world community of nations.

§ 2. ADMINISTRATION. (1) Establish a national initiative and referendum administration board to be known as the people's board.

(a) Upon approval of this amendment, each state shall elect one member to serve a four-year term on the board.

(b) Elections for these positions must coincide with the presidential election years.

(c) All candidates for the board must be registered voters and residents of the state they represent. They must also be citizens of the United States for a minimum of five years.

(d) All candidates must file as nonpartisan candidates and renounce membership in former political parties. In addition, they must list their history of political affiliation for the knowledge of the voter.

(e) Rules of the people's board: The board has the authority to establish their own procedures without interference by congress. These rules must be submitted to the people and receive fifty-one percent majority or more for final approval.

(2) Duties of the people's board:

(a) The board shall establish a special nationwide television channel that is designed to educate the public as thoroughly as possible on all proposed national initiatives and referendums from congress or the executive branch of the federal government.

(b) The board has the authority to establish any necessary committees required to study, research, and make recommendations to the board, United States Congress, and the people, if the situation requires it.

(c) The board must evaluate all initiatives and referendums as to their importance to providing for the general welfare of the nation. An effort must be made to unify and coordinate similar initiatives in order to make the process as efficient as possible.

(d) Committees must be established to research and study obsolete and conflicting laws for the purpose of repealing them if they are obsolete, or changing the conflicting ones until the conflict is eliminated. The board must present one of these at every election until the need no longer exists.

(e) In order to prevent conflict with the supreme court, the people's board shall establish a special committee of constitutional experts for the purpose of preevaluating all national initiatives and referendums that are being presented to the voters. The court and the committee shall work together in order to prevent unconstitutional laws becoming the law of the nation.

(f) Modernization: Elections on national initiatives and referendums shall continue to use the present county voting system. However, the people's board is mandated to upgrade and modernize to achieve more citizen involvement. As the general knowledge and habitual participation of the people increases due to the use of modern technology, more power and responsibility is to be delegated to them.

The board should work for the national initiative and referendum system to upgrade by establishing a nationwide electronic voting network that works by two-way communication to enable the American people to work more effectively with all their leadership in Washington, D.C.

§ 3. QUORUMS AND ELECTION STANDARDS. (1) Initiatives from the people suggested quorums:

A minimum of five percent of registered voters in each of at least fifty percent of the states in the union sends a new initiative to the people's board.

(2) Referendums:

Standards for referring new laws or policies to the people by the United States Congress, the executive branch, and the people's board must be established by them with the rules subject to approval by a referendum vote of at least fifty-one percent majority.

(3) Elections on national initiatives and referendums:

(a) Elections to vote on national initiatives and referendums are

to be held twice a year, on the first Tuesday each year in the month of November and a special election on the first Tuesday of June each year. The number of major issues or laws is not set, but it is suggested not to present more than five or six at each election.

(b)(i) With a two-thirds majority vote on a law being presented to the people, the people's board has the right to recommend pass or no pass. However, a two-thirds vote by the people creates new law over the objections of any agency or institution of the federal government. This two-thirds majority is recommended so a consensus of opinion will strongly support the new laws put into effect.

(ii) Only a vote by the people can reverse a law passed by the people. However, if clear evidence is brought to the people's board that a new law is doing harm or even not working as intended, a special election may be called by the board in order to reverse the previous decision.

§ 4. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS. (1) Treaty making power of the federal government is modified by the following policies:

New treaties and those up for renewal must be referred back to the people for final ratification. A two-thirds vote for the treaties is required for final approval. However, if the President and the United States Senate feel a treaty is still necessary even though the people have voted it down, they retain the authority to renegotiate another agreement that is more in agreement with the people.

(2) The people's board shall create a special committee to study treaties made in the past and then refer their recommendations for changes, if any, to the Senate, President, and the people's board. In addition, a general policy must be established that calls for a full study of all treaties every twenty-five years to verify that they are still effectively keeping up with the times and doing what they are supposed to do.

(3) Impeachment and recall from office:

We the people elect leaders on the basis of their integrity and desire to lead the country to a higher level. However, if by their conduct they prove to be crooked, incompetent, or physically or mentally unfit, we must remove them from office as quickly as possible. Therefore, if clear evidence is presented to the board that a public servant in high office should be recalled, and over one million registered voters are willing to sign petitions, then the people's board shall call for a vote of recall after giving the individual a fair hearing.

(4) Financing of the people's board's activities:

(a) All reasonable expenses required by the people's board to carry out its duties will be financed by the United States Department of Treasury.

(b) The board shall submit a budget request yearly to coincide with the congressional system. The people's budget will then become part of the national budget.

--- END ---