

## INITIATIVE 749

I, Sam Reed, Secretary of State of the State of Washington and custodian of its seal, hereby certify that, according to the records on file in my office, the attached copy of Initiative Measure No. 749 to the People is a true and correct copy as it was received by this office.

An ACT relating to the election of selected officials; adding a new chapter to Title 29 RCW.

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

- Sec. 1. Short Title: this Act shall be known and may be cited as the Fair Voting Act.
- Sec. 2. The People of the state of Washington find that:
- a) Fairness in the disposition and operation of the electoral franchise is fundamental to our democracy;
  - b) The disparities in population throughout the state have unfairly diminished the voice of citizens who live and work in less populated areas;
  - c) In every election, the electoral process should provide all citizens a fair opportunity to be heard;
  - d) The electoral system used for offices with statewide import should require candidates to receive approval from voters in all areas of the state, in a fair and equitable manner.
- Sec. 3. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
- a) "Electoral vote" means a vote computed by the method described in Section 4 of this chapter.
  - b) "Popular vote" means a vote cast by an elector qualified to vote in the state of Washington.
- Sec. 4. Each county shall be assigned a number of electoral votes equal in number to its own population divided by the population of the least populous county in the state.

- Sec. 5. Each candidate for any office made subject to the electoral system described in this chapter, shall be awarded a number of electoral votes from each county in proportion to the percentage of popular votes received within each county respectively, the sum total of which will equal a candidate's electoral vote count.
- Sec. 6. Candidates for the office of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer, auditor, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, commissioner of public lands, and United States senator must receive the greatest number of electoral votes in order to be declared duly elected and certified as such.
- Sec. 7. The number of electoral votes assigned to each county, and the number of electoral votes awarded to each candidate, must be rounded to a precision of two decimal places. The percentages used to compute the apportionment of electoral votes must be rounded to a precision of two decimal places, the sum total of which must equal one hundred.
- Sec. 8. The percentage of electoral votes to which each county is entitled must be equal to the percentage of the population of each county in relation to the total population of the state at large.
- Sec. 9. Population information used for the purpose of enacting this chapter shall be based on the most recent federal decennial census.
- Sec. 10. If more than one candidate for the same office made subject to this chapter receives the greatest and an equal number of electoral votes, the candidate with the greatest number of popular votes in the state at large shall be declared duly elected; but if any two or more shall be highest and equal in both electoral and popular votes for the same office, one of them shall be chosen by the joint vote of both houses of the legislature.
- Sec. 11. The secretary of state shall determine the correct number and apportionment of electoral votes for each county and each candidate respectively, as prescribed within this chapter.
- Sec. 12. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.
- Sec. 13. Sections 1 through 12 of this act constitute a new chapter in Title 29 RCW to be codified with the heading of "Election of selected officials".