

INITIATIVE 185

I, Ralph Munro, 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. 185 to the Legislature is a true and correct copy as it was received by this office.

1 AN ACT Relating to congressional voting; and creating new sections.

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

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature of the state of Washington
4 applies to the congress of the United States, under the authority of
5 Article V of the United States Constitution, that congress call for a
6 constitutional convention, to be independent of, and not subject to
7 rule by, congress, for the purpose of considering adding section 2 of
8 this act to the United States Constitution and any and all other
9 amendments or other business the convention may deem proper and
10 necessary for its consideration.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The proposed amendment is as follows:

12 (1) The voting authority of congress assembled, in committee and
13 general session, is revoked and all such authority is assigned to the
14 people by means of direct ballot or vote.

15 (2) Access for balloting by the people for direct votes must be
16 universal, and adequate funding for universal ballot access is
17 mandatory upon the federal government. Access must include, but not be
18 limited to mail, telephone, remotely connected voting machine, personal

1 computer, and interactive television. Votes so taken must be
2 tabulated, recorded, and maintained in a central location under such
3 security and procedures as directed by law. Such security measures as
4 are necessary to ensure the sanctity of the direct ballot must be
5 employed, but nothing in this section restricts the right of the people
6 to direct ballot except as directed in subsection (5) of this section.
7 No poll or release of information of an incomplete vote made by direct
8 ballot is permitted until the time period allowed for voting has
9 expired. No type of electioneering is allowed during a vote.
10 Penalties for violations may be prescribed by law.

11 (3) Members of committees of congress, whether standing or special,
12 must be chosen by random lot at the beginning of each session of
13 congress, and no member of congress may serve on the same committee
14 more than two consecutive sessions.

15 (4) The authority of direct ballot by the people being necessary
16 for the passage of any legislation before congress, all general
17 assembly and committee meetings must be public, including, but not
18 limited to, all testimony presented and all debate and discussion by
19 congressional members. Procedures for access by the public for direct
20 inquiry regarding a matter before a committee must be established by
21 law.

22 (5) The direct ballot in a committee of congress is limited to
23 those voters whose representative or senator is seated on such
24 committees. All citizens of the United States, if they otherwise are
25 legally qualified voters as specified in this Constitution, may cast a
26 vote in direct ballot in any question before congress assembled, or
27 before each house. A member of congress may vote in a direct ballot,
28 but that vote counts no more than any other citizen's vote, and no
29 member of congress is permitted by vote or other parliamentary
30 procedure to impair, thwart, alter, impede, or veto a vote made by
31 direct ballot. However, laws regarding limits upon debate, public
32 access for direct inquiry and comment, and all other such matters as
33 may be required for the orderly process of legislation may be enacted.

34 (6) All bills proposed in congress must contain and deal with a
35 single subject of legislation. No riders, attachments, or other
36 nonrelated amendments are permitted in any legislation. Nothing in
37 this section, however, forbids the submission of an amendment, rider,
38 or attachment as a separate piece of legislation.

1 (7) A reasonable voting period, not to be less than one week for
2 committee votes, and two weeks for each general vote of each house of
3 congress, or congress assembled, must be regularly established by law
4 and is not subject to change except for good cause as specified by law.
5 The president may shorten a voting period for good cause as specified
6 by law, but may not shorten a voting period already in progress. The
7 president is forbidden from suspending a voting period in total. The
8 manners, procedures, and specified number of bills that may be voted on
9 in any single voting period, together with establishing a procedure for
10 substitution of matters before vote as extraordinary circumstances may
11 require, must be established by law. The power of the president to
12 veto legislation, together with the power of judicial review by the
13 supreme court and its inferior courts is unaffected by this section.

14 (8) In all cases, except where otherwise specified in this
15 Constitution, a simple majority vote in direct ballot of those casting
16 votes in that ballot, in any matter before committee or either house,
17 is sufficient for passage. Bills and amendments to proposed bills may
18 be submitted for consideration in either committee or in either house
19 by any voter, in such form and manner as prescribed by law. Such law,
20 however, at a minimum, must include a reasonable time period of public
21 notification of such bills and amendments before a vote; the
22 establishment of a nonpartisan system available to all citizens to aid
23 in the composition, presentation, research, and all other such aspects
24 of legislation that are necessary to present proper bills and
25 amendments for consideration; a fair and just method of consolidating
26 similar bills and amendments; a procedure for reasonable
27 reconsideration of such consolidation; and a procedure guaranteeing
28 public scrutiny and access to such activities as prescribed in this
29 section.

30 (9) The people, by direct ballot, may enforce this section by
31 appropriate legislation.

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