

INITIATIVE 311

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. 311 to the Legislature is a true and correct copy as it was received by this office.

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

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This initiative from the people of
5 Washington state requires the Washington state legislature to enact
6 legislation for the following purpose. Under the authority of Article
7 V of the United States Constitution, the Washington state government
8 shall call for a constitutional convention to consider and establish a
9 national initiative and referendum amendment according to the following
10 text of this Washington state initiative.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Suggested Amendment 28:

12 United States national initiative and referendum amendment.

13 **ú 1. GENERAL PURPOSE.** (1) Return some of the power and
14 responsibility directly back to the people by giving them the
15 opportunity to consider and vote on new laws and policy questions at
16 the federal level.

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

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

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

13 **ú 2. ADMINISTRATION.** (1) Establish a national initiative and
14 referendum administration board to be known as the People's Board.

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

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

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

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

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

29 (2) Duties of the People's Board:

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

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

38 (c) The board must evaluate all initiatives and referendums as to
39 their importance to providing for the general welfare of the nation.

1 An effort must be made to coordinate similar initiatives in order to
2 make the process as efficient as possible.

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

8 (e) In order to prevent conflict with the United States Supreme
9 Court, the People's Board shall establish a special committee of
10 constitutional experts for the purpose of preevaluating all national
11 initiatives and referendums that are being presented to the voters.
12 The court and the committee shall work together in order to prevent
13 unconstitutional laws becoming the law of the nation.

14 (f) Modernization: Elections on national initiatives and
15 referendums shall continue to use the present county voting system.
16 However, the People's Board is mandated to upgrade and modernize to
17 achieve more citizen involvement. As the general knowledge and
18 habitual participation of the people increases due to the use of modern
19 technology, more power and responsibility is to be delegated to them.
20 The board should work to upgrade the national initiative and referendum
21 system by establishing a nationwide electronic voting network that
22 works by two-way communication to enable the American people to work
23 more effectively with all their leadership in Washington, D.C.

24 **ú 3. QUORUMS AND ELECTION STANDARDS.** (1) Initiatives from the
25 people suggested quorums:

26 A minimum of five percent of registered voters in each of at least
27 fifty percent of the states in the union sends a new initiative to the
28 People's Board.

29 (2) Referendums:

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

34 (3) Elections on national initiatives and referendums:

35 (a) Elections to vote on national initiatives and referendums are
36 to be held twice a year, on the first Tuesday each year in the month of
37 November and a special election on the first Tuesday of June each year.
38 The number of major issues or laws is not set, but it is suggested not
39 to present more than five or six at each election.

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

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

12 **ú 4. ELECTORAL COLLEGE REPEAL.** (1) Upon approval of this
13 amendment, the part of Article XII using the electoral vote system to
14 elect the President and Vice President will be repealed.

15 (2) A direct popular vote will replace the electoral system with a
16 minimum of fifty-one percent majority required to elect the President
17 and Vice President.

18 (3) If no candidate receives the required majority on the first
19 ballot, then within thirty days, a new runoff election will be required
20 of the top three combination candidates.

21 **ú 5. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.** (1) Treaty making power of the
22 federal government is modified by the following policies:

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

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

36 (3) Impeachment and recall from office:

37 We the people elect leaders on the basis of their integrity and
38 desire to lead the country to a higher level. However, if by their
39 conduct they prove to be crooked, incompetent, or physically or

1 mentally unfit, we must remove them from office as quickly as possible.
2 Therefore, if clear evidence is presented to the board that a public
3 servant in high office should be recalled, and over one million
4 registered voters are willing to sign petitions, then the People's
5 Board shall call for a vote of recall after giving the individual a
6 fair hearing.

7 (4) Financing of the People's Board's activities:

8 (a) All reasonable expenses required by the People's Board to carry
9 out its duties shall be financed by the United States Department of
10 Treasury.

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

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