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KNOW THE ISSUES



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VICTOR A. MEYERS

SECRETARY OF STATE, STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 6, 1962

Initiative Measure No. 211

*OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE

STATE LEGISLATIVE REAPPORTIONMENT AND REDISTRICTING

AN ACT Relating to the State Legislature and legislative districts; defining the boundaries of all state legislative districts; changing the boundaries and population of most districts; renumbering some districts; providing for the number of legislators and their allocation to such legislative districts; and repealing existing legislative apportionment and districting laws in conflict therewith.

* Ballot Title issued by John J. O'Connell, Attorney General.

OFFICIAL ARGUMENT **FOR** INITIATIVE MEASURE NO. 211

INITIATIVE 211 WILL MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

It will give all Washington voters the representation to which they are entitled in our state legislature. The state constitution says that districts should be approximately equal in population. They now range from 20,023 to 145,180. If Initiative 211 passes, all voters in the cities, in the suburbs and in the rural areas will be equally represented.

How Does the Present Unequal Representation Affect the Average Citizen?

Today some Washingtonians have only one-seventh the voting power of others. This means that some voters have much more influence in making laws and electing lawmakers than others. This is contrary to the American tradition as well as to our state constitution and must be corrected.

Why Does Redistricting Need to Be Done by Initiative?

The constitution requires the legislature to redistrict after every ten-year federal census but the legislators have not been able to agree on a plan. Since 1900 they have never redistricted except after an Initiative.

Is Equal Representation a Problem In Other States?

Yes. The United States Supreme Court, in a recent historic decision, affirmed the right of ALL citizens to fair representation in state government. All over the country, urban and suburban residents are demanding and getting more equal representation.

Who Wrote Initiative 211?

The League of Women Voters of Washington, a non-partisan organization working with appointed representatives of the Democratic and Republican parties, drafted this measure as a service to the people of Washington state.

Every Citizen Will Be Represented But No County Will Have a Majority in the Legislature.

INITIATIVE 211 IS CONSTITUTIONAL—NON-PARTISAN—FAIR

VOTE **FOR INITIATIVE MEASURE No. 211**

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO COMPOSE ARGUMENT FOR INITIATIVE MEASURE NO. 211

MRS. HAROLD D. PEARSON, Pres.
League of Women Voters of Washington
7615 Sand Point Way N.E.
Seattle 15, Washington

JOSEPH DRUMHELLER, Chairman
Committee for Redistricting
North 10 Post Street
Spokane, Washington

BEN B. EHRLICHMAN, Co-Chairman
Committee for Redistricting
Norton Building
Seattle, Washington

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

GOODWIN CHASE, Co-Chairman
Committee for Redistricting
National Bank of Washington
Tacoma, Washington

JOE DAVIS, Co-Chairman
Committee for Redistricting
2800 1st Avenue
Seattle 1, Washington

MRS. DOUGLASS C. NORTH
Redistricting Chairman
League of Women Voters of Washington
10023 Vinton Court, Seattle 77, Wash.

EXPLANATORY COMMENT ISSUED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AS REQUIRED BY LAW

The Law As It Now Exists:

This state is presently divided into forty-nine districts, from which members of the state legislature are elected. One state senator is elected from each district. Two state representatives are elected from each district, except that from each of six districts three representatives are elected, and from each of five districts one representative is elected. The total numbers of senators and representatives presently provided for are, respectively, forty-nine and ninety-nine.

Effect of Initiative Measure No. 211 If Approved Into Law:

Under this initiative the total number of districts (49) and the total number of senators (49) and representatives (99), would be unchanged. The initiative would change the boundaries and population of most districts and re-apportion the state legislators among the districts.

One senator would be elected from each district. Two representatives would be elected from each district, except that from one district three representatives would be elected.

The terms of representatives elected in 1962 would not be affected. The terms of senators elected to the legislature in 1960 and in 1962 would not be affected.

NOTE: Complete text of Initiative Measure No. 211 starts on Page 28.

OFFICIAL ARGUMENT AGAINST INITIATIVE MEASURE NO. 211

1. Initiative 211 violates the fundamental American principle of direct representative government.
2. 211 rearranges district boundaries without due regard to geographic, economic, and social consideration for the needs of people affected.
3. 211 may deny the right of direct representation to 18 of our 39 counties.

THIS CONSTITUTES TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

4. One county already has 30% of both houses of the Legislature. 211 would increase this lopsided representation. Historically, lopsided government has been bad government for all.
5. Washington's comparative position on representation in State Legislatures is one of the best. 211 does not improve it.
6. It requires an amendment to our State Constitution to improve direct representation according to this accepted American principle of government.
7. Legislative apportionment as done by Initiative 211 is government without representation.

VOTE AGAINST INITIATIVE MEASURE No. 211

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO COMPOSE ARGUMENT AGAINST INITIATIVE MEASURE NO. 211

BENTON M. BANGS, Vice-Pres.
Washington State Association
of County Commissioners
Chelan, Wash.

A. LARS NELSON, Master
Washington State Grange
3104 Western Ave., Seattle 1, Wash.

DALE NORDQUIST
Former State Senator
Centralia, Wash.

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Washington Cattlemen's Ass'n
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MRS. MARY RICHMOND
Housewife
Kahlotus, Wash.

MRS. MARGUERITE OST
Housewife
Ridgefield, Wash.