



## Amending the Washington Constitution The Process:

### Constitution Requires:

#### **Pathway 1: (Legislature)**

*“Any amendment or amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in either branch of the legislature; and if the same shall be agreed to by two-thirds of the members elected to each of the two houses, such proposed amendment or amendments shall be entered on their journals, with the ayes and noes thereon, and be submitted to the qualified electors of the state for their approval, at the next general election; and if the people approve and ratify such amendment or amendments, by a majority of the electors voting thereon, the same shall become part of this Constitution, and proclamation thereof shall be made by the governor: Provided, That if more than one amendment be submitted, they shall be submitted in such a manner that the people may vote for or against such amendments separately. The legislature shall also cause notice of the amendments that are to be submitted to the people to be published at least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal newspaper in the state: Provided, That failure of any newspaper to publish this notice shall not be interpreted as affecting the outcome of the election.*

#### **Pathway 2: (Convention)**

*Whenever two-thirds of the members elected to each branch of the legislature shall deem it necessary to call a convention to revise or amend this Constitution, they shall recommend to the electors to vote at the next general election, for or against a convention, and if a majority of all the electors voting at said election shall have voted for a convention, the legislature shall at the next session, provide by law for calling the same; and such convention shall consist of a number of members, not less than that of the most numerous branch of the legislature. Any Constitution adopted by such convention shall have no validity until it has been submitted to and adopted by the people.”*

### What this means in practice:

#### **Pathway 1: (Legislature)**

- Step 1: An amendment may be proposed in either branch of the legislature and shall be agreed upon by two-thirds of the members elected to each of the two houses (98 House, 49 Senate members, total).
- Step 2: Notice of the amendment shall be published at least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal newspaper in the state.

- Step 3: Amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the state for their approval at the next general election. Amendment becomes a part of this Constitution if approved by a majority of electors.
- Step 4: Proclamation shall be made by the governor.

**Pathway 2: (Convention)**

- Step 1: A convention shall be called by a two-thirds vote of the members elected to each branch of the legislature.
- Step 2: Legislature shall submit the question of a convention to the electors and a majority vote thereof in favor causes the legislature, at the next session, to provide by law for calling the convention and the number of members shall be not less than that of the most numerous branch of the legislature.