



COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION

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Public Education on "Senate Legislative Initiative 16-11 to Amend Article VIII, Section 1 of the Constitution"

Question: Do you approve of Senate Legislative Initiative 16-11 to amend Article VIII, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold regular general elections only in even-numbered years? Yes or No.

Stated Findings: With the implementation of US Public Law 110-229 granting the Commonwealth a non-voting delegate to the US Congress, the CNMI Government has to conduct a separate election for that office in even-numbered years commencing in 2008 in addition to holding regular general election in odd-numbered years pursuant to Article VIII, Section 1 of the CNMI Constitution. By not holding an election every year, the Legislature finds that the cost-savings could be used for other programs and services in need of additional funds. Therefore, the purpose of this initiative is to propose an amendment as set forth in section 2 hereof to Article VIII, Section 1 of the CNMI Constitution to hold general elections only in even-numbered years.

General Summary: Senate Legislative Initiative 16-11 proposes to hold the general election and the election for the non-voting delegate during even-numbered years. This would eliminate the need for a special election like the one conducted in 2008 for the federal non-voting delegate position. Instead, the Commonwealth would vote for the federal non-voting delegate during the general election. The Senate has found that by holding one election instead of two a reported \$87,530.00 would be saved. This \$87,530.00 could then be used for other programs and services in the CNMI that are in need of additional funds. In the short term this initiative would affect the length of terms of the individuals that are voted into office in this 2009 election and during the next midterm election. All House of Representatives elected in November will serve a three-year term instead of the customary two-year term. All Senators elected in November will serve a five-year term instead of the customary four-year term. Likewise, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Mayors will each serve a five-year term instead of the customary four-year term. The increased term length would only happen during this election in order to synchronize the general election and the election for the non-voting delegate in 2012.

Pros:

1. By eliminating the need for a special election every four years to elect the federal non-voting delegate, and instead moving the general election to even-numbered years, the CNMI would save a reported \$87,530.00.
2. By moving the general election to even-numbered years, the public will not be inundated almost yearly, with campaign pamphlets, posters and ads.
3. CNMI political parties will save money by not having two separate elections in which to campaign for candidates.

Cons:

1. If this initiative passes, then all House of Representatives elected November 2009 will serve a three-year term, instead of the statutory two-year term.
2. If this initiative passes, all Senators elected in November, 2009 election will serve a five-year term instead of the statutory four-year term.
3. If this initiative passes all Mayors, and the Governor elected in November, 2009 will serve a five-year term instead of the statutory four-year term.

Edukasion Publiku ni "Senate Legislative Initiative 16-11 para u Amenda i Attikulu VIII, Seksiona 1 gi Konstitusion"

Kuestion: Kão un apreba i Senate Legislative Initiative 16-11 para u amenda i Attikulu VIII, Seksiona 1 gi Konstitusion i Sangkattan na Islan Marianas siha para u go'te i regulat na eleksion henerat ha'gi even-numbered na sakkan siha? Hunggan pat Ahe'

Yama na Sinedda': Yan i implimentasion i US Lain Publiku 110-229 maná'i i Commonwealth non-voting na delegadu para i Kongreson US, i Gobietnamenton CNMI debi na u kondukta separao na eleksion para ayu i ofisinan i sakkan i even-numbered siha ha tutuhon gue; gi 2008 yan dinaña'i para u na'guaha regulat na eleksion henerat gi odd-numbered na sakkan sigun gi Attikulu VIII, Seksiona 1 gi Konstitusion CNMI. Ti debi na u na'guaha i eleksion gi maseha háfa na sakkan, i Lehislatura ha sodda' na i cost-savings siña ma'usa para otro programa siha yan setbisio siha ni numisisita más fondo siha. Láo, i hangain este na initiative ni para u mapropone amendasion komu mapega mo'na gi seksiona 2 guini gi Attikulu VIII, Seksiona 1 gi Konstitusion i CNMI para u na'guaha eleksion henerat siha gi even-numbered ha' na sakkan siha.

Sumarian Henerat: I Senate Legislative Initiative 16-11 ha propone para u na'guaha eleksion henerat yan eleksion para i non-voting delegate gi duranten i sakkan i even-numbered siha. Este u na'suha i nisisdat para i espisiat na eleksion tát komu i unu ni makondukta gi 2008 para i non-voting na pusion i delegadon federat. Alugat, di i Commonwealth u fambota para i non-voting na delegadon federat gi duranten i eleksion henerat. I Senate ha sodda' na yanggen mana'guaha unu na eleksion alugat di i dos maripot na manmankahaya \$87,530.00 na salappe'. Este i \$87,530.00 siña ma'usa para otro programa siha yan setbisio siha gi halom i CNMI ni manmanisisita para más na fondo siha. Gi kadada' na tema este na initiative siña inafekta i inanakko' i tema siha gi indibiduát siha ni manmabota hálom i ofisina guini gi 2009 na eleksion yan duranten i sigiente na eleksion i midterm. Todu Kongreso siha ni manma'ilili gi Nubembre para u masetbe tres años na tema alugat di regulatmente i dos años na tema. Todu Senatod siha manma'ilili gi Nubembre yan para u masetbe singko años na tema alugat di regulatmente i kuatro años na tema. Taimanu ha', i Gobietno, Segundo Gobietno yan i Mayot siha u masetbe singko años na tema alugat di regulatmente i kuatro años na tema. I ináomentan i inanakko' i tema ni siña ha' masusedi gi duranten este na eleksion nai siña para u synchronize i eleksion henerat yan i eleksion para i delegadon i non-voting gi 2012.

Finabot Siha:

1. Gi mana'suhan i nisisdat i espisiat na eleksion kada kuatro años para u ma'ilili i non-voting na delgadon federat, yan alugat di u mana'suha i sakkan i even-numbered na eleksion henerat siha, i CNMI siempre mangkahaya gi ripot \$87,530.00.
2. Gi ma'arangkan i eleksion henerat para i even-numbered kada kuatro años, i pupbliku ti u milak kana' kada sakkan, yan campaign pamphlets, posters, yan i ads siha.
3. I Pattidan politiku CNMI siha siempre mangkahaya salappe' ginen i ti u mana'guaha dos separao na eleksion siha ni para u campaign para i kandidatu siha.

Kinentra Siha:

1. Yanggen mapasa este na initiative, pues todú i Kongreso siha ni manma'ilili gi Nubembre 2009 u masetbe tres años na tema, alugat di i dos años na estatuan tema.
2. Yanggen mapasa este na initiative, todú Senatod siha ni manma'ilili gi Nubembre 2009, na eleksion u masetbe singko años na tema alugat di i kuatro años na estatuan tema.
3. Yanggen mapasa este na initiative, todú Mayot siha, yan Gobietno ni manma'ilili gi Nubembre, 2009 u masetbe singko años na estatuan tema alugat di i kuatro años na tema.

Ammatafal Toulap reel " Senate Legislative Initiative 16-11 iye e siweli Article V111, Tálil 1 mereel Allégh Lapalap."

Ayegh: U apreba i Senate Legislative Initiative 16-11, Tálil 1 mereel Allégh Lapalap llól Téél falúw kka Efáng Marianas bwe ebwe ayoorá regular general election llól rágh kka e even number schagh ? Awer ngáre Saabw.

Milikka re schuungi: Igha aa toolong Alléghúl Toulap ye US 110-229 iye aa mweiti ngáli Commonwealth's escháy non-voting delegate nge US Congress, Gobennool Commonwealth aa ayoorá bwal eew bwotasion ngáre bwulasiyo yeel llól rágh ye e even-number, e bweletá wóól 2008, fengál me general regular election llól odd-numbered, sáangi Article V111, Tálil 1 mereel Allégh Lapalap ye CNMI. Igha ese yoor election alongal ráágh, Sów Fféerúl Allégh (Legislature) e schuungi bwe cost-savings nge emmwel ebwe yááyá ngáli akkááw progróoma me alillis (service) kka e nisitaay maas salaapi. Ila mille, faal initiative yeel nge ebwe pomwoli ssiwel ye aa ammwel llól tálil ruwoow mellól Article V111, Tálil 1 mereel Allégh Lapalap ye CNMI ebwe ayoorá general election llól rágh kka even-number schagh.

Aweewe: Senate Legislative Initiative 16-11 e pomwoli ebwe ayoorá general election me electionul non-voting delegate llól rágh kka even-number. Milleel nge ebwe ayuwúl special election ebwe aweey ighiwe eyoor llo 2008, reel posision we federal non-voting delegate. Iwe, Commonwealth ebwele bwoota reel federal non-voting delegate llól general election. Senate aa schuungi bwe igha eew schagh election me mmwal ruwoow nge ebwe save llapal \$87,530. \$87,530 yeel nge emmwel ebwe yááli ngáli akkááw progróoma kka llól CNMI ikka e nisitaay maas fundo. Mellol short term initiative yeel ebwe aweiresi (afektaay) tool term reel schóókka re bwotaar llól 2009 me bwal mid-term election. Alongeer House of Representative kka re bwotaar llól Nobembre rebwe lo eluuw ráágh, ese weey fasúl, ruwoow ráágh. Alongeer Senators kka re bwotaar llól Nobembre rebwe lo limwoow ráágh, ese weey fasúl iwe faawu ráágh. E bwal weewe schagh me Sów Lemelem, Sów Mang me Maghalaay. Alongeer rebwe lo limwoow ráágh ese weey ighiwe faawu ráágh. Tetáál raghil yaar lo nge llól schagh election yeey bwelle ebwe weeweló ótol general election me non-voting delegate election llól 2012.

Ghatchúl:

1. Igha e akkayúól special election alongal faawu ráágh reel bwotaal federal non-voting delegate me amwóghutu general election ngáli ráágh kka e even-number, CNMI ebwe save \$87, 530.
2. Igha aa mwóghut general election ngáli rágh kka even-number, toulap ressóbw schotch alongal ráágh. Tilighiil campaign, posters me ads
3. Pattidal politika mellól CNMI re bwal save salaapi reel eew schagh election.

Ngówal:

1. Ngáre initiative yeel e pass alongeer House of Representative kka re bwotaar llól Nobembre 2009, nge rebwe serve eluuw ráágh, saabw ruwoow ráágh yaar term.
2. Ngáre initiative yeel e pass alongeer Senators kka re bwotaar llól Nobembre 2009, nge rebwe serve limwoow ráágh saabw faawu ráágh yaar term.
3. Ngáre initiative yeel e pass alongeer Maghalaay, me Sów Lemelem kka rebwe bwotaar llól Nobembre 2009, nge rebwe serve limwoow ráágh saabw faawu ráágh Term.