

November 19, 1976

PROPOSED AMENDMENT  
TO ARTICLE II, SECTION 2

It is proposed that article II, section 2 of the draft Constitution be amended to read as follows:

Section 2: Composition of the Senate.

a) The Senate shall consist of ~~nine-(9)~~ six (6) members with ~~three-(3)~~ two (2) members elected at large from Rota, ~~three-(3)~~ two (2) members elected at large from Saipan and ~~the~~ including islands north of it, and ~~three-(3)~~ two (2) members elected at large from Tinian and including Aguiguan. The term of office for senator shall be four (4) years except that the candidate receiving the ~~third~~ second highest number of votes in the first election for senator on each island pursuant to this section shall serve a term of two (2) years.

b) The Senate shall be increased to ~~twelve-(12)~~ eight (8) members and ~~three-(3)~~ two (2) members shall be elected from islands north of Saipan at the first general election after the population of these islands exceeds one thousand (1,000) persons. The senator receiving the ~~third~~ second highest number of votes in the first such election shall serve for two (2) years.

c) A senator shall be a qualified voter of the ~~Commonwealth~~ Northern Marianas, a United States citizen or national, at least twenty-five (25) years of age, and a resident of the ~~Commonwealth~~ Northern Marianas for at least five (5) years immediately preceding his election. A longer residency requirement may be provided by law.

Offered by,

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Luis A. Benavente