

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

2 **56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Craig W. Brandt

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10 A JOINT RESOLUTION

11 PROPOSING TO AMEND ARTICLE 4, SECTION 4 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF  
12 NEW MEXICO TO EXTEND TO FOUR YEARS THE TERMS OF MEMBERS OF THE  
13 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND TO SIX YEARS THE TERMS OF MEMBERS  
14 OF THE SENATE; STAGGERING THE TERMS OF REPRESENTATIVES AND  
15 SENATORS; PROVIDING FOR A LIMIT OF THREE CONSECUTIVE TERMS FOR  
16 REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS; CLARIFYING HOW LEGISLATIVE  
17 VACANCIES ARE FILLED.

18  
19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

20 SECTION 1. It is proposed to amend Article 4, Section 4  
21 of the constitution of New Mexico to read:

22 "Members of the [~~legislature~~] senate shall be elected [~~as~~  
23 ~~follows: those senators from Bernalillo, Chaves, Curry, DeBaca,~~  
24 ~~Grant, Lea, Lincoln, Luna, Sandoval, San Juan, San Miguel,~~  
25 ~~Socorro, Taos, Torrance, Union and Valencia counties for a term~~

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1 ~~of six years starting January 1, 1961, and after serving such~~  
2 ~~terms shall be elected]~~ for a term of [~~four~~] six years,  
3 [~~thereafter; those senators from all other counties for the~~  
4 ~~terms of four years]~~ and members of the house of  
5 representatives shall be elected for a term of [~~two~~] four  
6 years. [~~They shall be elected on the day provided by law for~~  
7 ~~holding the general election of state officers or~~  
8 ~~representatives in congress. If a vacancy occurs in the office~~  
9 ~~of senator or member of the house of representatives, for any~~  
10 ~~reason, the county commissioners of the county wherein the~~  
11 ~~vacancy occurs shall fill such vacancy by appointment]~~ Members  
12 of the senate and house of representatives shall not serve more  
13 than three consecutive terms that begin on or after January 1,  
14 2025. Legislators shall be elected on the day provided by law  
15 for holding the general election for representatives in  
16 congress.

17 Members of the house of representatives elected in even-  
18 numbered house districts shall serve for a term of two years  
19 for the terms beginning January 1, 2025. Thereafter, members  
20 of the house of representatives elected in even-numbered house  
21 districts shall serve for a term of four years.

22 Members of the senate elected in senate districts one,  
23 four, seven, ten, thirteen, sixteen, nineteen, twenty-two,  
24 twenty-five, twenty-eight, thirty-one, thirty-four, thirty-  
25 seven and forty shall serve for a term of two years for the

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1 terms beginning January 1, 2025. Thereafter, members of the  
2 senate elected in those districts shall serve for a term of six  
3 years. Members of the senate elected in senate districts two,  
4 five, eight, eleven, fourteen, seventeen, twenty, twenty-three,  
5 twenty-six, twenty-nine, thirty-two, thirty-five, thirty-eight  
6 and forty-one shall serve for a term of four years for the  
7 terms beginning January 1, 2025. Thereafter, members of the  
8 senate elected in those districts shall serve for a term of six  
9 years. Members of the senate in all other districts shall  
10 serve six-year terms beginning January 1, 2025.

11 If a vacancy occurs in the office of representative or  
12 office of senator for any reason, the vacancy shall be filled  
13 as follows:

14 A. for a house or senate district that is situated  
15 wholly within the exterior boundaries of a single county, the  
16 board of county commissioners of that county shall appoint the  
17 representative or senator to fill the vacancy for the remainder  
18 of the term; and

19 B. for a house or senate district that is situated  
20 within two or more counties, the board of county commissioners  
21 of each county in the representative or senate district shall  
22 submit one name to the governor, and the governor shall appoint  
23 the representative or senator to fill the vacancy for the  
24 remainder of the term from the list of names submitted.

25 ~~[Such]~~ Legislative appointments as provided in this

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1 section shall be for a term ending on December 31, subsequent  
2 to the next succeeding general election."

3 SECTION 2. The amendment proposed by this resolution  
4 shall be submitted to the people for their approval or  
5 rejection at the next general election or at any special  
6 election prior to that date that may be called for that  
7 purpose, and if so approved, the provisions of Section 1 of  
8 this resolution shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

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