

Proposal No.: CC-PR-4-15

Assigned to: Committee on Government Structure and Function

PROPOSAL TO AMEND CONSTITUTION

To amend Section 8 of Article IX of the Constitution to (1) add one more at-large member from each of the four states; (2) make the term for all members of Congress four years; and (3) to hold national elections every four years.

Section 8. The Congress consists of ~~one~~ two members elected at large from each state on the basis of state equality, and additional members elected from congressional districts in each state apportioned by population. All members ~~Members elected on the basis of state equality shall~~ serve for a 4-year term, ~~and all other members for 2 years.~~ Each member has one vote, ~~except on the final reading of bills.~~ Congressional elections are held every four years ~~biennially~~ as provided by statute.

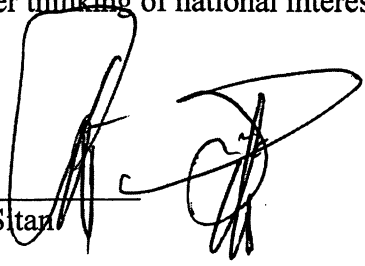
PURPOSE AND INTENT OF AMENDMENT:

This proposal would add four more at-large members to the FSM Congress. This will bring the total number of members to 18, compared to the current 14.

The second issue contained in this proposal is to have all members of the FSM Congress to serve for four years. Currently, only the four at-large members serve for four years. The ten members representing the various election districts in the four states serve for two years. The amendment will increase the four members at-large to eight members. While this may increase cost because of the additional four members, there will be some saving from the second part of the amendment as there will be one less election. While elections every two years allow citizens their democratic rights to evaluate the performance of their representatives, it does invites the issue of more pork barrel legislation to safeguard members' re-election.

Having eight at large members should allow improved outputs from the Legislative Branch, since we expect more scrutiny from more members. The fourteen members of Congress seem to be too small to a population of ours with spread out geographical areas with diverse cultures. Our Micronesian sisters' nations, with smaller population and less diverse cultures, have larger numbers of parliamentarians. Having eight at large members should allow Congress more options to choose a President and a Vice-President. Having more at-large members should promote broader thinking of national interests rather than election districts and states.

Proposed by Delegate: _____

Peter Sitan 

Date: 1/11/20