



St. Croix Government Retirees, Inc.
P.O. Box 187
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Website: stcroixgovernmentretirees.com

February 28, 2018

Mrs. Caroline Fawkes
Supervisor of Elections
Sunny Isle, St. Croix, VI

Dear Supervisor Fawkes:

St. Croix Government Retirees, Inc. comes with an Initiative petition. We petition to amend sections of Title 2 of the Virgin Islands Code to provide for the re-apportionment of the Virgin Islands Legislature. The Code shall be amended in Title 2, chapter 5, section 76 Senatorial allotments; Title 2, chapter 6, section 101 Legislative districts; Title 2, chapter 6, section 102 Number; Apportionment, and Title 2, chapter 6, section 103 Requirements; residence.

The complete text of all the amendments of the VIC follows:

Section 76 Senatorial allotments.

Amend b, c, and d by adding the languages in parentheses.

(b) The (at-large) member designated by a resolution passed by the majority as President of the Senate, in addition to the base allotment, shall receive an additional allotment not to exceed 1% of the operating budget of the Legislative Branch to perform the additional responsibilities and duties of the Office of the President.

(The member's total allotment shall be no more than 3% of the operating budget of the Legislative Branch.)

(c) Members designated as committee chairs by a resolution passed by a majority of senators, in addition to the base allotment, shall all receive an equal additional allotment not to exceed .5% of the operating budget of the Legislative Branch to perform the additional responsibilities of chairing their respective committees, except that the (at-large members designated by a resolution passed by the majority to be) the committee chairs of the Rules and Finance committees or their successor committees shall each receive a total allotment not to exceed 1% of the operating budget of the Legislative Branch to perform the additional responsibilities of chairing their respective committee.

(d) The member(s) elected to the at-large seat(s), in addition to their base allotment, and in addition to any other allotment for chairing a senate committee, shall receive an additional allotment not to exceed 5% of the operating budget of the Legislative Branch to provide for the staffing of the member(s)' offices in both (St. Croix and St. Thomas).

DELETE the remaining language " In the event the member elected to the at-large senate seat also becomes designated as the President of the Senate, that ..."

Section 101 Legislative districts.

Amend by striking the complete language and replace with the following:

There shall be five legislative Districts in the Virgin Islands, one designated the District of St. Croix East, one designated the District of St. Croix West, one designated the District of St. Thomas East, one designated the District of St. Thomas West, and one designated the District of St. John. The District of St. Croix East shall be comprised of the eastern part of St. Croix and Protestant Cay. The District of St. Croix West shall be comprised of the western part of St. Croix and Buck island and adjacent islets and cays. The District of St. Thomas East shall be comprised of the eastern part of St. Thomas. The District of St. Thomas West shall be comprised of the western part of St. Thomas and Hassel, Water, Savanna, Inner Brass, Outer Brass, Hans Lollick, Little Hans Lollick, Great St. James, Little St. James, Capella Islands, Thatch Cay, Flanagan Islands, Grass, Mingo, Lovango, and Congo Cays, and adjacent islets and cays. The District of St. John shall be comprised of the island of St. John.

Section 102 Number; Apportionment

Amend by striking the complete language and replace with the following:

There shall be fifteen members of the Legislature to be known as senators.

The island of St. Croix shall be divided into two districts, St. Croix East and St. Croix West; the island of St. Thomas shall be divided into two districts, St. Thomas East and St. Thomas West; the island of St. John shall be a district by itself.

Two senators shall be elected by qualified voters of the district of St. Croix East, and two senators shall be elected by qualified voters of the district of St. Croix West.

Two senators shall be elected by qualified voters of the district of St. Thomas East, and two senators shall be elected by qualified voters of the district of St. Thomas West. One senator shall be elected by the qualified voters of the island of St. John.

Three senators who are bonafide residents of the island of St. Croix shall be elected at large by the qualified electors of the Virgin Islands as a whole, and three senators who are bonafide residents of the island of St. Thomas shall be elected at large by the qualified electors of the Virgin Islands as a whole. The district senators shall serve for a term of two years. The at-large senators shall serve for a term of four years in a staggered manner with three at-large senators standing for election every two years.

Legislation shall require the affirmative vote of five district senators and three at-large senators. The override of a Governor's veto shall require the affirmative vote of six district senators and four at-large senators.

Section 103 Requirements; residence.

Amend the section after the semicolon, strike the language in bracket and add the language in parentheses.

; provided, that no person may be a candidate for the [one] at-large seat(s) unless he/she will have been a bonafide resident of [St. John] (the island of St. Thomas or St. Croix) for at least three consecutive years next preceding the general election.

A question is offered for consideration and acceptance by the Initiative titling Board.


QUESTION: Do you accept the amendments retirees make to re-apportion the Legislature of the Virgin Islands designating election by five districts to have nine district senators and six at-large senators accountable and responsible to the electorate?

Supervisor Fawkes, the preliminary Initiative petition is included with the signatures of at least 1 percent of the voters of each legislative district.

The contact person for the Initiative petition is SCGR Special Program coordinator, Mary L. Moorhead, cellular (340) 277-7485 and email: Mary.moorhead13@gmail.com

Thank you.

Respectfully,


Debra Christopher
President of SCGR, Inc.

Cc. Deputy supervisor Genevieve Whitaker
Ms. Kevermay Douglas