



## *The Senate*

NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
P.O. BOX 500129  
SAIPAN, MP 96950

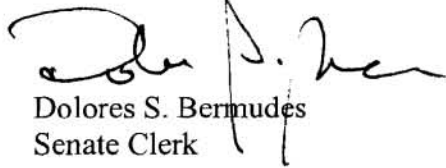
August 10, 2009

Robert A. Guerrero  
Executive Director  
Board of Election  
Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas  
Islands  
Capitol Hill  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Director Guerrero:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith a certified copy of **S. L. I. No. 16-11**, entitled, "Proposing to amend Article VIII, Section 1 of the CNMI Constitution regarding regular general elections," which was passed by the Sixteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature with an affirmative three-fourths vote of the members present and voting in each house.

Sincerely yours,



Dolores S. Bermudes  
Senate Clerk

Attachment



## THE SENATE

SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2008

### SENATE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE 16-11

#### A SENATE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE

Proposing to amend Article VIII, Section 1 of the CNMI  
Constitution regarding regular general elections.

#### BE IT ENACTED BY THE SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

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

10           **Section 2. Legislative Initiative.** The Sixteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth  
11 Legislature, by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members of each house present  
12 and voting, hereby enacts a legislative initiative proposing the following amendment to the  
13 Constitution to be placed before the people for ratification:

“A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

1 To Article VIII, Section 1 of the CNMI Constitution to read as follows:

2 “**Section 1: Regular General Election.** The regular general election of the  
3 Commonwealth shall be held the Tuesday next after the first Monday Saturday in  
4 November in even-numbered years.”

5 **Section 3. Implementation.** Upon ratification of this initiative in accordance with  
6 section 4 hereof, Article VIII, Section 1, as amended hereby, shall be implemented as  
7 follows, notwithstanding any constitutional or statutory provision to the contrary:

8 (a) There shall be a regular general election in 2009 held pursuant to Article  
9 VIII, Section 1 of the CNMI Constitution and applicable election laws of the  
10 Commonwealth that were in effect prior to ratification of this initiative; provided that  
11 a person elected to office, the term of which is:

12 (1) Two years, shall serve a term of three years such that the next  
13 regular general election to that office shall occur in 2012 and every two years  
14 thereafter.

15 (2) Four years, shall serve a term of five years such that the next  
16 regular general election to that office shall occur in 2014 and every four years  
17 thereafter.

18 (b) The regular general election in 2011 shall be moved to 2012 as prescribed  
19 by Article VIII, Section 1, as amended, of the CNMI Constitution and  
20 Commonwealth election laws. The term of office of an incumbent holding office to  
21 which the election has been moved from 2011 to 2012 shall expire at midnight of the

1 day prior to inauguration to that office in 2013.

2 **Section 4. Adoption; Transmittal; Special Election.** The President of the Senate  
3 and the Speaker of the House shall certify and the Senate Legislative Secretary and House  
4 Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this Legislative Initiative. The Senate Clerk shall then  
5 cause the Initiative to be transmitted to the Governor and the Commonwealth Election  
6 Commission with instructions that the Commission place it before the people of the  
7 Commonwealth for a ratification vote in a special election, in conformance with Article  
8 XVIII, Section 5 of the Commonwealth Constitution and 1 CMC § 6505, to be held on the  
9 Saturday next after 90 days from the date of the initiative's enactment by ratification.


*Passed by the Senate on December 04, 2008 House of Representatives on August 10, 2009  
and the by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members in each house.*

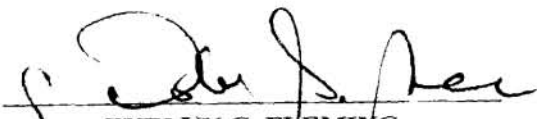
**CERTIFIED BY:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**PETE P. REYES**  
SENATE PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
**ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

**ATTESTED TO BY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**DOLORES S. BERMUDES**  
SENATE CLERK

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**EVELYN C. FLEMING**  
HOUSE CLERK