

**Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Arkansas
Constitution.**

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019

HJR 1006

4
5 By: Representative Lundstrum
6 By: Senator G. Stubblefield

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

9 AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION PROVIDING
10 THAT SUPREME COURT JUSTICES, COURT OF APPEALS JUDGES,
11 CIRCUIT JUDGES, AND DISTRICT JUDGES SHALL BE ELECTED
12 ON A PARTISAN BASIS.

Subtitle

16 AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION
17 PROVIDING THAT SUPREME COURT JUSTICES,
18 COURT OF APPEALS JUDGES, CIRCUIT JUDGES,
19 AND DISTRICT JUDGES SHALL BE ELECTED ON A
20 PARTISAN BASIS.

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL
24 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL
25 MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

27 THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of
28 the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state
29 for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives
30 and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election
31 adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of
32 the State of Arkansas, to wit:

34 SECTION 1. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 80, §§ 17 and 18, are
35 amended to read as follows:

36 § 17. Election of circuit and district judges.



1 (A) Circuit Judges and District Judges shall be elected on a
2 ~~nonpartisan~~ partisan basis by a majority of qualified electors voting for
3 such office within the circuit or district which they serve.

4 (B) Vacancies in these offices shall be filled as provided by this
5 Constitution.

6
7 § 18. Election of Supreme Court Justices and Court of Appeals Judges.

8 (A) Supreme Court Justices and Court of Appeals Judges shall be
9 elected on a ~~nonpartisan~~ partisan basis by a majority of qualified electors
10 voting for such office. Provided, however, the General Assembly may refer
11 the issue of merit selection of members of the Supreme Court and the Court of
12 Appeals to a vote of the people at any general election. If the voters
13 approve a merit selection system, the General Assembly shall enact laws to
14 create a judicial nominating commission for the purpose of nominating
15 candidates for merit selection to the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

16 (B) Vacancies in these offices shall be filled by appointment of the
17 Governor, unless the voters provide otherwise in a system of merit selection.

18
19 SECTION 2. BALLOT TITLE AND POPULAR NAME. When this proposed
20 amendment is submitted to the electors of this state on the general election
21 ballot:

22 (1) The title of this Joint Resolution shall be the ballot
23 title; and

24 (2) The popular name shall be "A Constitutional Amendment
25 Providing that Supreme Court Justices, Court of Appeals Judges, Circuit
26 Judges, and District Judges Shall Be Elected on a Partisan Basis".