

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

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023

HJR 1009

4
5 By: Representatives Lundstrum, Beck, Bentley, K. Brown, Burkes, John Carr, C. Cooper, Crawford,
6 Duffield, Evans, Haak, Hawk, D. Hodges, G. Hodges, Hollowell, Ladyman, Long, Lynch, McAlindon,
7 Milligan, Puryear, Ray, Richmond, Rose, Rye, Unger
8 By: Senator G. Stubblefield

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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

Subtitle

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

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

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

36 SECTION 1. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 80, §§ 17 and 18, are



1 amended to read as follows:

2 § 17. Election of circuit and district judges.

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

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

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9 § 18. Election of Supreme Court Justices and Court of Appeals Judges.

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

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

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21 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment is effective on and after
22 January 1, 2025.

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24 SECTION 3. BALLOT TITLE AND POPULAR NAME. When this proposed
25 amendment is submitted to the electors of this state on the general election
26 ballot:

27 (1) The title of this Joint Resolution shall be the ballot
28 title; and

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

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