

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

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021

HJR 1019

4
5 By: Representatives Lundstrum, Barker, Beaty Jr., Bentley, M. Berry, Brown, Bryant, Cavanaugh, Cloud,
6 C. Cooper, Dotson, Evans, C. Fite, Furman, Gonzales, Hollowell, Lowery, Lynch, McClure, McCollum,
7 McGrew, McNair, Milligan, Payton, Pilkington, Rye, B. Smith, Tollett, Vaught, Womack, Wooten
8 By: Senators G. Stubblefield, B. Ballinger, Bledsoe, T. Garner, Rice

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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.

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Subtitle

17
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.

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25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
26 OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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

34

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



1 § 17. Election of circuit and district judges.

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

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

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

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

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

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20 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment is effective on and after
21 January 1, 2023.

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

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

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