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

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021 HJR 1019

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

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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

Subtitle

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

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

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

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

§ 17. Election of circuit and district judges.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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