

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

SENATE JOINT  
RESOLUTION 35

By: Dahm

AS INTRODUCED

A Joint Resolution directing the Secretary of State to refer to the people for their approval or rejection a proposed amendment to Section 2 of Article VII of the Oklahoma Constitution; establishing limitation of term of service for certain Judicial Officer; establishing requirements for application of term limitations to partial terms; providing ballot title; and directing filing.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2ND SESSION OF THE 59TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

SECTION 1. The Secretary of State shall refer to the people for their approval or rejection, as and in the manner provided by law, the following proposed amendment to Section 2 of Article VII of the Oklahoma Constitution to read as follows:

Section 2. The Supreme Court shall consist of nine Justices until the number shall be changed by statute and each Justice shall be from a separate district of the State. Each district shall remain as presently constituted until otherwise provided by Statute. The terms of office of the Justices of the Supreme Court shall be six years and shall commence on the second Monday of January

1 following their election. Any Justice who is elected to office  
2 after the effective date of this amendment shall be eligible to  
3 serve no more than twelve (12) years on the Supreme Court. The  
4 years served by any Justice appointed or elected to serve less than  
5 a full term to fill a vacancy in office shall not be included in the  
6 twelve-year limitation set forth herein; but no Justice who has  
7 completed twelve (12) years in office shall thereafter be eligible  
8 to serve a partial term. Any Justice who is serving a term in  
9 office or who has been elected or appointed to serve a term in  
10 office on the effective date of this amendment shall be entitled to  
11 complete his or her term and shall be eligible to serve an  
12 additional twelve (12) years thereafter. Those appointed or elected  
13 to fill vacancies shall assume office immediately upon qualifying  
14 for the office. Each Justice, at the time of his election or  
15 appointment, shall have attained the age of thirty years, shall have  
16 been a qualified elector in the district for at least one year  
17 immediately prior to the date of filing or appointment, and shall  
18 have been a licensed practicing attorney or judge of a court of  
19 record, or both, in Oklahoma for five years preceding his election  
20 or appointment and shall continue to be a duly licensed attorney  
21 while in office to be eligible to hold the office. The Justices  
22 shall choose from among their members a Chief Justice and a Vice  
23 Chief Justice.

1 SECTION 2. The Ballot Title for the proposed Constitutional  
2 amendment as set forth in SECTION 1 of this resolution shall be in  
3 the following form:

4 BALLOT TITLE

5 Legislative Referendum No. \_\_\_\_\_ State Question No. \_\_\_\_\_

6 THE GIST OF THE PROPOSITION IS AS FOLLOWS:

7 This measure would amend Section 2 of Article 7 of the Oklahoma  
8 Constitution. The measure would impose a term limit of 12 years  
9 on Justices of the Supreme Court. It allows members to serve  
10 more than 12 years if filling a vacancy for a partial term. It  
11 allows Justices serving when this measure is approved to finish  
12 a term then serve 12 additional years.

13 SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?

14 FOR THE PROPOSAL - YES \_\_\_\_\_

15 AGAINST THE PROPOSAL - NO \_\_\_\_\_

16 SECTION 3. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall,  
17 immediately after the passage of this resolution, prepare and file  
18 one copy thereof, including the Ballot Title set forth in SECTION 2  
19 hereof, with the Secretary of State and one copy with the Attorney  
20 General.

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