
HOUSE BILL 1945

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2011 Regular Session
By Representatives McCune, Harris, and Ahern

1 AN ACT Relating to the constitutional free speech rights of judges
2 and judicial candidates; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the right of free
5 speech, especially political speech, as guaranteed under the First
6 Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, section 5 of
7 the Washington state Constitution and that this right extends as fully
8 and equally to judges and judicial candidates of our state as it does
9 to all other candidates for public office in this state.

10 The legislature further recognizes that judges and judicial
11 candidates may and should choose to exercise these rights in order to
12 better inform the public as to their judicial philosophy, their
13 knowledge and understanding of the history, intent, purpose, and text
14 of the federal and state Constitutions and other law in order to
15 educate the people on a wide range of legal issues important to those
16 who have a civic obligation to become better informed when choosing
17 those judges and judicial candidates they wish to elect or retain.

18 The legislature hereby declares its belief that judges and judicial
19 candidates have a fundamental right to freely express and incorporate

1 their beliefs and opinions in any statements made regarding any
2 campaign or potential campaign for judicial office or any issue
3 pertaining thereto without legal or professional retribution or other
4 negative consequence, penalty, or sanction to the standing, evaluation,
5 or privilege of the judge or the judicial candidate.

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