

House Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 8 of Article V and the creation of a new section in Article XII of the State Constitution to create term limits for Supreme Court justices and judges of the district courts of appeal.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the following amendment to Section 8 of Article V and the creation of a new section in Article XII of the State Constitution are agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose:

ARTICLE V

JUDICIARY

SECTION 8. Eligibility.—

(a) No person shall be eligible for office of justice or judge of any court unless the person is an elector of the state and resides in the territorial jurisdiction of the court. No justice or judge shall serve after attaining the age of seventy years except upon temporary assignment or to complete a term, one-half of which has been served.

(b) No person is eligible for the office of justice of the supreme court or judge of a district court of appeal unless the

27 | person is, and has been for the preceding ten years, a member of
 28 | the bar of Florida. No person is eligible for the office of
 29 | circuit judge unless the person is, and has been for the
 30 | preceding five years, a member of the bar of Florida. Unless
 31 | otherwise provided by general law, no person is eligible for the
 32 | office of county court judge unless the person is, and has been
 33 | for the preceding five years, a member of the bar of Florida.
 34 | Unless otherwise provided by general law, a person shall be
 35 | eligible for election or appointment to the office of county
 36 | court judge in a county having a population of 40,000 or less if
 37 | the person is a member in good standing of the bar of Florida.

38 | (c) No person may appear on the ballot for retention to
 39 | the office of justice of the supreme court or judge of a
 40 | district court of appeal if, by the end of the current term of
 41 | office, the person has ever served or, but for resignation,
 42 | would have served, in that office for two consecutive full
 43 | terms.

44 | ARTICLE XII

45 | SCHEDULE

46 | Applicability of limitations on the terms of justices and
 47 | judges.—The amendment to Section 8 of Article V shall take
 48 | effect upon approval by the electors. The limitations of the
 49 | amendment on the terms of justices of the supreme court and
 50 | judges of the district courts of appeal apply to justices and
 51 | judges in office on the effective date of the amendment.

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52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
53 placed on the ballot:

54 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

55 ARTICLE V, SECTION 8

56 ARTICLE XII

57 TERM LIMITS FOR APPELLATE COURTS.—Proposing an amendment to
58 the State Constitution to limit the terms of Supreme Court
59 justices and judges of the district courts of appeal. They
60 currently serve unlimited 6-year terms, if retained, until age
61 70 or beyond that age, if less than one-half of a term remains
62 at age 70. This amendment would limit them to two full terms. A
63 partial term would not count toward the limit. This amendment
64 applies to current justices and judges.