

SCS SJR 51 -- NONPARTISAN SELECTION OF JUDGES

Upon voter approval, this proposed constitutional amendment changes the composition of the Appellate Judicial Commission and the selection process for the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals. The number of individuals submitted by the Appellate Judicial Commission for consideration by the Governor for a vacancy in the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals is increased from three to four.

Currently, the commission consists of a judge of the Missouri Supreme Court chosen by its members; three attorney members, one elected by members of the Missouri Bar in each appellate district; and three non-attorney members, one appointed by the Governor from each appellate district. The resolution changes the membership to consist of a former judge of the court of appeals or the Supreme Court who has not lost a retention election or been removed for cause to serve as the nonvoting member selected by the members of the Supreme Court whose first term will begin January 15, 2013; a member of the Missouri Bar from each court of appeals district elected by its members in each district; and four citizens appointed by the Governor, one from each court of appeals district and one from the state at-large. The appointed members will serve staggered terms so that the term of two members will end on January 15, 2015, and the term of two members will end on January 15, 2017. The terms of all subsequently appointed members will end four years after the termination of the prior term. Vacancies occurring in unexpired terms must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term. These changes take effect on January 15, 2013.