

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
JOINT  
2 RESOLUTION NO. 24

By: Jolley, Sykes and Shortey  
of the Senate

3  
4 and

Murphey of the House  
5  
6  
7

8 [ Joint Resolution - proposed amendment to the  
Oklahoma Constitution - limiting time as Justice or  
9 Judge of appellate court - ballot title - filing ]  
10  
11

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
13 1ST SESSION OF THE 54TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

14 SECTION 1. The Secretary of State shall refer to the people for  
15 their approval or rejection, as and in the manner provided by law,  
16 the following proposed amendment to Sections 1, 2 and 3 of Article  
17 VII of the Oklahoma Constitution, to read as follows:

18 Section 1. A. The judicial power of this State shall be vested  
19 in the Senate, sitting as a Court of Impeachment, a Supreme Court,  
20 the Court of Criminal Appeals, the Court on the Judiciary, the  
21 Workers' Compensation Court, the Court of Bank Review, the Court of  
22 Tax Review, and such intermediate appellate courts as may be  
23 provided by statute, District Courts, and such Boards, Agencies and  
24 Commissions created by the Constitution or established by statute as

1 exercise adjudicative authority or render decisions in individual  
2 proceedings. Provided that the Court of Criminal Appeals, the  
3 Workers' Compensation Court, the Court of Bank Review and the Court  
4 of Tax Review and such Boards, Agencies and Commissions as have been  
5 established by statute shall continue in effect, subject to the  
6 power of the Legislature to change or abolish said Courts, Boards,  
7 Agencies, or Commissions.

8 B. No person shall be eligible to serve as a Justice of the  
9 Supreme Court or a Judge of an appellate court in this state for a  
10 period of time in excess of twenty (20) years. Such years need not  
11 be consecutive. No such person shall be required to be on a  
12 retention ballot during such twenty-year period. Any Justice or  
13 Judge serving as such on January 1, 2015, shall be eligible to serve  
14 an additional twenty (20) years from the date of appointment or the  
15 date of certification of election results when last on the retention  
16 ballot, whichever is later, and shall not be required to be on a  
17 retention ballot during such twenty-year period.

18 C. Municipal Courts in cities or incorporated towns shall  
19 continue in effect and shall be subject to creation, abolition or  
20 alteration by the Legislature by general laws, but shall be limited  
21 in jurisdiction to criminal and traffic proceedings arising out of  
22 infractions of the provisions of ordinances of cities and towns or  
23 of duly adopted regulations authorized by such ordinances.

24

1 Section 2. A. The Supreme Court shall consist of nine Justices  
2 until the number shall be changed by statute and each Justice shall  
3 be from a separate district of the State. Each district shall  
4 remain as presently constituted until otherwise provided by Statute.

5 B. The terms of office of the Justices of the Supreme Court  
6 shall be six years and shall commence on the second Monday of  
7 January following their election. Those appointed or elected to  
8 fill vacancies shall assume office immediately upon qualifying for  
9 the office. Provided, no person shall be eligible to serve as a  
10 Justice of the Supreme Court for a period of time in excess of  
11 twenty (20) years. Such years need not be consecutive. No Justice  
12 shall be required to be on a retention ballot during such twenty-  
13 year period. Any Justice who is serving as such on January 1, 2015,  
14 shall be entitled to complete his or her six-year term and shall be  
15 eligible to serve an additional 20 years thereafter, and shall not  
16 be required to be on a retention ballot during such 20-year period.

17 C. Each Justice, at the time of ~~his~~ election or appointment,  
18 shall have attained the age of thirty years, shall have been a  
19 qualified elector in the district for at least one year immediately  
20 prior to the date of filing or appointment, and shall have been a  
21 licensed practicing attorney or judge of a court of record, or both,  
22 in Oklahoma for five years preceding ~~his~~ election or appointment and  
23 shall continue to be a duly licensed attorney while in office to be  
24 eligible to hold the office.



1 the Supreme Court and other courts. This measure would limit  
2 the amount of time a person could serve as a Justice of the  
3 Supreme Court or a Judge of another appellate court to twenty  
4 years. The years would not need to be consecutive. Persons  
5 would not need to appear on a retention ballot during this time.  
6 Justices or Judges serving on January 1, 2015, could complete  
7 their current terms and serve an additional twenty years.

8 SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?

9 FOR THE PROPOSAL - YES \_\_\_\_\_

10 AGAINST THE PROPOSAL - NO \_\_\_\_\_

11 SECTION 3. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall,  
12 immediately after the passage of this resolution, prepare and file  
13 one copy thereof, including the Ballot Title set forth in SECTION 2  
14 hereof, with the Secretary of State and one copy with the Attorney  
15 General.

