

SENATE FLOOR VERSION

February 7, 2017

SENATE JOINT
RESOLUTION NO. 14

By: Dahm of the Senate

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-B of the Oklahoma Constitution; increasing amount of votes necessary to retain certain officers; providing ballot title; and directing filing.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
1ST SESSION OF THE 56TH 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-B of the Oklahoma Constitution to read as follows:

Section 2. At the general election next before his term expires, any Judicial Officer may seek retention in office by filing with the Secretary of State, not less than sixty (60) days before the date of such election, a declaration of candidacy to succeed himself. Thereupon, at such election, there shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the State, on a separate ballot, without party designation, this question:

1 "Shall (Here insert name of Justice or Judge) of (Here
2 insert the title of the court) be retained in Office?

3 ☐ YES

4 ☐ NO

5 The question shall be decided by ~~a majority~~ sixty percent (60%)
6 of those voting thereon. If the decision is "yes" the Judicial
7 Officer shall be retained in office for the next ensuing six (6)
8 year term. If the decision is "no", or if no declaration of
9 candidacy is filed, the office shall be vacant upon expiration of
10 the term then being served, and the former Judicial Officer shall
11 not be eligible for appointment to succeed himself. Retention in
12 office may be sought for successive terms without limit as to
13 number, except for retirement as may be provided by the Legislature
14 for a maximum retirement age.

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

18 BALLOT TITLE

19 Legislative Referendum No. _____ State Question No. _____

20 THE GIST OF THE PROPOSITION IS AS FOLLOWS:

21 This measure amends Section 2 of Article 7-B of the Oklahoma
22 Constitution. It increases to 60% the amount of votes needed to
23 retain a judge in office.

24 SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?

FOR THE PROPOSAL — YES

AGAINST THE PROPOSAL – NO

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

COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
February 7, 2017 - DO PASS