

By: _____

____.J.R. No. _____

A JOINT RESOLUTION

proposing a constitutional amendment to modify the composition of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

WHEREAS; The legislature finds that:

(a) Greater public representation in the State Commission on Judicial Conduct will enhance transparency and public trust.

(b) A diverse commission with a majority of non-judicial and non-attorney members will provide a more balanced perspective on judicial conduct matters.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Article V, Section 1-a(2) of the Texas Constitution is amended to read as follows:

(2) The State Commission on Judicial Conduct consists of thirteen (13) members, to wit: (i) Two (2) judges from the of Court of Criminal Appeals, Court of Appeals, District Court, or County Court, ensuring no more than one judge from each court level; (ii) Two (2) Justice of the Peace or Municipal Court; ~~one (1) Justice of a Court of Appeals;~~ (ii) ~~one (1) District Judge;~~ (iii) ~~two (2) members of the State Bar, who have respectively practiced as such for over ten (10) consecutive years next preceding their selection;~~ (iv) (iii) seven (7) five (5) citizens, at least thirty (30) years of age, not licensed to practice law nor holding any salaried public office or employment; (iv) two (2) members of the State Bar, who have respectively practiced as such for over ten (10) consecutive

~~years next preceding their selection; (v) one (1) Justice of the Peace; (vi) one (1) Judge of a Municipal Court; (vii) one (1) Judge of a County Court at Law; and (viii) one (1) Judge of a Constitutional County Court;~~ provided that no person shall be or remain a member of the Commission, who does not maintain physical residence within this State, or who shall have ceased to retain the qualifications above specified for that person's respective class of membership, and provided that a Commissioner of class (i), (ii), or (iv), ~~(vii), or (viii)~~ may not reside or hold a judgeship in the same court of appeals district as another member of the Commission. Commissioners of classes (i) ~~and~~, (ii), ~~(vii), and (viii)~~ above shall be chosen by the Supreme Court with advice and consent of the Senate, ~~those of class (iii) by the Board of Directors of the State Bar under regulations to be prescribed by the Supreme Court with advice and consent of the Senate,~~ those of class (iii)(iv) by appointment of the Governor with advice and consent of the Senate, those of class (iv) by the Board of Directors of the State Bar under regulations to be prescribed by the Supreme Court with advice and consent of the Senate. ~~and the commissioners of classes (v) and (vi) by appointment of the Supreme Court as provided by law, with the advice and consent of the Senate.~~

Section 2: Article V, Section 1-a(3) of the Texas Constitution is amended to read as follows:

(3) The regular term of office of Commissioners shall be six (6) years; but the current members of the State Commission on

Judicial Conduct shall continue to serve until their terms expire. The Governor shall then;

(a) appoint new public members upon the expiration of the first two members of classes (i) or (ii);

(b) if applicable, upon completion of appointments under Subsection (a), appoint new members of classes (i) and (ii) until compliance with Section 1-a(2) is achieved.

~~initial members of each of classes (i), (ii) and (iii) shall respectively be chosen for terms of four (4) and six (6) years, and the initial members of class (iiii) for respective terms of two (2), four (4) and six (6) years. Interim vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as vacancies due to expiration of a full term, but only for the unexpired portion of the term in question. Commissioners may succeed themselves in office only if having served less than three (3) consecutive years.~~

SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the voters at an election to be held on November 7, 2025. The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment ensuring that the majority of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct consists of nonjudicial and non-attorney members of the public."