

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 HOUSE JOINT  
4 RESOLUTION 1014

By: Lepak

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8 AS INTRODUCED

9 A Joint Resolution directing the Secretary of State  
10 to refer to the people for their approval or  
11 rejection a proposed amendment to Section 4 of  
12 Article VII-B of the Constitution of the State of  
13 Oklahoma; modifying provisions related to selection  
14 of justices or judges; requiring appointment by  
15 Governor; providing for appointment by Chief Justice  
16 of the Oklahoma Supreme Court in certain  
17 circumstances; prescribing confirmation process by  
18 Oklahoma State Senate; providing for authority of  
19 nominee during certain time period; providing ballot  
20 title; and directing filing.

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE OF THE  
22 1ST SESSION OF THE 60TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

23 SECTION 1. The Secretary of State shall refer to the people for  
24 their approval or rejection, as and in the manner provided by law,  
the following proposed amendment to Section 4 of Article VII-B of  
the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma to read as follows:

1 Section 4. When a vacancy in any Judicial Office, however  
2 arising, occurs or is certain to occur, the ~~Judicial Nominating~~  
3 ~~Commission shall choose and submit to the Governor and the Chief~~  
4 ~~Justice of the Supreme Court three (3) nominees, each of whom has~~  
5 ~~previously notified the Commission in writing that he will serve as~~  
6 ~~a Judicial Officer if appointed. The Governor shall appoint one (1)~~  
7 ~~of the nominees~~ a qualified person to fill the vacancy, but if he  
8 fails to do so within sixty (60) days after the vacancy occurs, the  
9 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall appoint ~~one (1) of the~~  
10 ~~nominees, the appointment to~~ a qualified person and in either case,  
11 except as otherwise provided by this section, the nominee shall not  
12 begin to serve until confirmation of the nomination by a majority  
13 vote of the members elected to and constituting the Oklahoma State  
14 Senate. After confirmation, the appointment shall be certified by  
15 the Secretary of State. If the Governor makes an appointment when  
16 the Legislature is not in session, the nominee shall be able to  
17 serve until the Legislature convenes in either regular session or in  
18 an extraordinary session during which a confirmation vote is  
19 authorized based upon the call for the extraordinary session whether  
20 pursuant to Section 27A of Article V or Section 7 of Article VI of  
21 the Oklahoma Constitution.

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

BALLOT TITLE

Legislative Referendum No. \_\_\_\_\_ State Question No. \_\_\_\_\_

THE GIST OF THE PROPOSITION IS AS FOLLOWS:

This measure amends the Oklahoma Constitution. It amends Section 4 of Article 7-B. The Judicial Nominating Commission makes recommendations for appointment of justices to the appeals courts in Oklahoma which includes the Oklahoma Supreme Court and the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals. This measure would replace the Judicial Nominating Commission. The Governor would appoint qualified persons to fill vacancies. If the Governor did not act within a certain time, the Chief Justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court would make the appointment. All appointments would be subject to confirmation by the Oklahoma State Senate. Confirmation would require a majority vote of lawmakers elected to and constituting the Oklahoma State Senate. If the Governor appointed someone when the Legislature was not in session, the appointee would have authority to act until the Legislature was in session.

SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?

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

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

SECTION 3. The Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, immediately after the passage of this act, shall prepare and file one copy thereof, including the Ballot Title set forth in SECTION 2

1 hereof, with the Secretary of State and one copy with the Attorney  
2 General.

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