

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR  
5 SENATE JOINT  
6 RESOLUTION NO. 7

By: Paxton

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 A Joint Resolution directing the Secretary of State  
9 to refer to the people for their approval or  
10 rejection a proposed amendment to Section 3 of  
11 Article VII-B of the Constitution of the State of  
12 Oklahoma; updating references to congressional  
13 districts; modifying provisions related to terms of  
14 office; removing restrictions based on membership in  
15 political party; removing restrictions based upon  
16 status as licensed attorney; removing restriction  
17 based upon status of family members as licensed  
18 attorneys; removing restriction related to succession  
19 in office; prohibiting consecutive service for  
20 certain time period; updating statutory language;  
21 providing ballot title; and directing filing.  
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25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
26 1ST SESSION OF THE 60TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

27 SECTION 1. The Secretary of State shall refer to the people for  
28 their approval or rejection, as and in the manner provided by law,  
29 the following proposed amendment to Section 3 of Article VII-B of  
30 the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma to read as follows:  
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1 Section 3. (a) There is established as a part of the Judicial  
2 Department a Judicial Nominating Commission of fifteen (15) members,  
3 to consist of:

4 (1) six members to be appointed by the Governor, which shall  
5 include at least one from each congressional district ~~established by~~  
6 ~~the Statutes of Oklahoma and existing at the date of the adoption of~~  
7 ~~this Article, none of whom shall be admitted to practice law in the~~  
8 ~~State of Oklahoma or have any immediate family member who has been~~  
9 ~~admitted to the practice of law in the State of Oklahoma or any~~  
10 ~~other state~~ as such congressional districts exist as of the date of  
11 the appointment. Each member shall serve a term of six (6) years;

12 (2) six members, which shall include at least one from each  
13 congressional district ~~established by the Statutes of Oklahoma and~~  
14 ~~existing at the date of the adoption of this Article~~ as such  
15 congressional districts exist as of the date of the appointment who  
16 are, however, members of the Oklahoma Bar Association and who have  
17 been elected by the other active members of their district under  
18 procedures adopted by the Board of Governors of the Oklahoma Bar  
19 Association, until changed by statute. Each member shall serve a  
20 term of six (6) years; and

21 (3) three members at large ~~who shall not have been admitted to~~  
22 ~~the practice of law in the State of Oklahoma or any other state or~~  
23 ~~have any immediate family member who has been admitted to the~~  
24 ~~practice of law in the State of Oklahoma or any other state but who,~~

1 each of whom shall be a resident of the State of Oklahoma, one to be  
2 selected by not less than eight members of the Judicial Nominating  
3 Commission. Each member shall serve a term of six (6) years. In  
4 the event eight members of the Commission cannot agree upon the  
5 member at large within thirty (30) days of the initial organization  
6 of the Commission or within thirty (30) days of a vacancy in the  
7 member at large position, the Governor shall make the appointment of  
8 the member at large; one ~~to~~ member shall be selected by the  
9 President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and one ~~to~~ member shall be  
10 selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. ~~No more~~  
11 ~~than two members at large shall belong to any one political party.~~

12 (b) The Commission shall elect one of its members to serve as  
13 chair for a term of one (1) year.

14 ~~The six lay members of the Commission who are appointed by the~~  
15 ~~Governor shall be appointed within ninety (90) days from the date~~  
16 ~~that this Article becomes effective. Two members shall be appointed~~  
17 ~~for a term of two (2) years, two members for a term of four (4)~~  
18 ~~years, and two members for a term of six (6) years. The Oklahoma~~  
19 ~~Bar Association shall hold its election and certify to the Secretary~~  
20 ~~of State its members within ninety (90) days from the effective date~~  
21 ~~of this Article, two of whom shall be elected for a term of two (2)~~  
22 ~~years, two for a term of four (4) years, and two for a term of six~~  
23 ~~(6) years. Thereafter all~~ (c) All of the members of the  
24 Commission, whether elected or appointed, shall serve for a term of

1 six (6) years, ~~except that the member at large shall serve for a~~  
2 ~~term of two (2) years.~~

3 ~~(b)~~ (d) Vacancies arising during the term of any lay  
4 commissioner, other than the member at large, shall be filled by  
5 appointment by the Governor for the remainder of his or her term.  
6 Vacancies of any lawyer commissioner shall be filled by the Board of  
7 Governors of the Oklahoma Bar Association for the remainder of his  
8 or her term.

9 ~~(e)~~ (e) In the event of vacancy in the member at large  
10 position, the ~~said~~ vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the  
11 original selection.

12 ~~(d)~~ ~~Of those Commissioners named by the Governor, not more than~~  
13 ~~three shall belong to any one political party.~~

14 ~~(e)~~ (f) The concurrence of the majority of Commissioners in  
15 office at the time shall be sufficient to decide any question,  
16 unless otherwise provided herein. The Commission shall have  
17 jurisdiction to determine whether the qualifications of nominees to  
18 hold Judicial Office have been met and to determine the existence of  
19 vacancies on the Commission.

20 ~~(f)~~ (g) No Commissioner, while a member of the Commission,  
21 shall hold any other public office by election or appointment or any  
22 official position in a political party and he or she shall not be  
23 eligible, while a member of the Commission and for five (5) years  
24 thereafter, for nomination as a Judicial Officer.



1 that the member could be a licensed attorney. It allows a  
2 person to serve on the Commission even if he or she is related  
3 to a licensed attorney. It changes the terms so that each term  
4 would be for six (6) years. It removes restrictions based on  
5 political party membership. It removes a provision that  
6 prohibits a member of the Commission from succeeding himself or  
7 herself on the Commission.

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.

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