

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-sixth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2024

## **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1044**

### A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF ARIZONA; AMENDING ARTICLE VI, SECTIONS 4, 9, 12, 37, 38, 39, 41 AND 42, CONSTITUTION OF ARIZONA; RELATING TO THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of  
2 Representatives concurring:

3 1. Article VI, section 4, Constitution of Arizona, is proposed to be  
4 amended as follows if approved by the voters and on proclamation of the  
5 Governor:

6 4. Supreme court; term of office

7 Section 4. Justices of the supreme court shall hold  
8 office ~~for a regular term of six years~~ DURING GOOD BEHAVIOR,  
9 ~~except as provided by~~ AS DETERMINED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH THE  
10 PROVISIONS OF this article AND ARTICLES VI.I AND VIII.

11 2. Article VI, section 9, Constitution of Arizona, is proposed to be  
12 amended as follows if approved by the voters and on proclamation of the  
13 Governor:

14 9. Intermediate appellate courts

15 Section 9. The jurisdiction, powers, duties and  
16 composition of any intermediate appellate court shall be as  
17 provided by law. JUDGES OF INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE COURTS SHALL  
18 HOLD OFFICE DURING GOOD BEHAVIOR, AS DETERMINED EXCLUSIVELY  
19 THROUGH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE AND ARTICLES VI.I AND  
20 VIII.

21 3. Article VI, section 12, Constitution of Arizona, is proposed to  
22 be amended as follows if approved by the voters and on proclamation of the  
23 Governor:

24 12. Superior court; term of office

25 Section 12. A. Judges of the superior court in counties  
26 having a population of less than two hundred fifty thousand  
27 persons according to the most recent United States census shall  
28 be elected by the qualified electors of their counties at the  
29 general election. They shall hold office for a regular term of  
30 four years except as provided by this section from and after  
31 the first Monday in January next succeeding their election, and  
32 until their successors are elected and qualify. The names of  
33 all candidates for judge of the superior court in such counties  
34 shall be placed on the regular ballot without partisan or other  
35 designation except the division and title of the office.

36 B. The governor shall fill any vacancy in such counties  
37 by appointing a person to serve until the election and  
38 qualification of a successor. At the next succeeding general  
39 election following the appointment of a person to fill a  
40 vacancy, a judge shall be elected to serve for the remainder of  
41 the unexpired term.

42 Judges of the superior court in counties having a  
43 population of two hundred fifty thousand persons or more  
44 according to the most recent United States census shall hold  
45 office ~~for a regular term of four years~~ DURING GOOD BEHAVIOR,

1 ~~except as provided by~~ AS DETERMINED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH THE  
2 PROVISIONS OF this article AND ARTICLES VI.I AND VIII.

3 4. Article VI, section 37, Constitution of Arizona, is proposed to  
4 be amended as follows if approved by the voters and on proclamation of the  
5 Governor:

6 37. Judicial vacancies and appointments; residence;  
7 age

8 Section 37. A. Within sixty days from the occurrence of  
9 a vacancy in the office of a justice or judge of any court of  
10 record, except for vacancies occurring in the office of a judge  
11 of the superior court or a judge of a court of record inferior  
12 to the superior court, the commission on appellate court  
13 appointments, if the vacancy is in the supreme court or an  
14 intermediate appellate court of record, shall submit to the  
15 governor the names of not less than three persons nominated by  
16 it to fill such vacancy, ~~no~~ NOT more than two of whom shall be  
17 members of the same political party unless there are more than  
18 four such nominees, in which event not more than sixty ~~percentum~~  
19 PERCENT of such nominees shall be members of the same political  
20 party.

21 B. Within sixty days from the occurrence of a vacancy in  
22 the office of a judge of the superior court or a judge of a  
23 court of record inferior to the superior court except for  
24 vacancies occurring in the office of a judge of the superior  
25 court or a judge of a court of record inferior to the superior  
26 court in a county having a population of less than two hundred  
27 fifty thousand persons according to the most recent United  
28 States census, the commission on trial court appointments for  
29 the county in which the vacancy occurs shall submit to the  
30 governor the names of not less than three persons nominated by  
31 it to fill such vacancy, ~~no~~ NOT more than two of whom shall be  
32 members of the same political party unless there are more than  
33 four such nominees, in which event ~~no~~ NOT more than sixty ~~per~~  
34 ~~centum~~ PERCENT of such nominees shall be members of the same  
35 political party. A nominee shall be under sixty-five years of  
36 age at the time ~~his~~ THE NOMINEE'S name is submitted to the  
37 governor. Judges of the superior court shall be subject to  
38 retention or rejection by a vote of the qualified electors of  
39 the county from which they were appointed at the general  
40 election UNDER THE CONDITIONS AND in the manner provided by  
41 section 38 of this article.

1 C. A vacancy in the office of a justice or a judge of  
2 such courts of record shall be filled by appointment by the  
3 governor without regard to political affiliation from one of  
4 the nominees whose names ~~shall be~~ ARE submitted to ~~him~~ THE  
5 GOVERNOR as hereinabove provided. In making the appointment,  
6 the governor shall consider the diversity of the state's  
7 population for an appellate court appointment and the diversity  
8 of the county's population for a trial court appointment,  
9 however the primary consideration shall be merit. If the  
10 governor does not appoint one of such nominees to fill such  
11 vacancy within sixty days after their names are submitted to  
12 the governor by such commission, the chief justice of the  
13 supreme court forthwith shall appoint on the basis of merit  
14 alone without regard to political affiliation one of such  
15 nominees to fill such vacancy. If such commission does not,  
16 within sixty days after such vacancy occurs, submit the names  
17 of nominees as hereinabove provided, the governor shall have  
18 the power to appoint any qualified person to fill such vacancy  
19 at any time thereafter prior to the time the names of the  
20 nominees to fill such vacancy are submitted to the governor as  
21 hereinabove provided. ~~Each justice or judge so appointed shall~~  
22 ~~initially hold office for a term ending sixty days following~~  
23 ~~the next regular general election after the expiration of a term~~  
24 ~~of two years in office. Thereafter, the terms of justices or~~  
25 ~~judges of the supreme court and the superior court shall be as~~  
26 ~~provided by this article.~~

27 D. A person appointed to fill a vacancy on an  
28 intermediate appellate court or another court of record now  
29 existing or hereafter established by law shall have been a  
30 resident of the counties or county in which that vacancy exists  
31 for at least one year ~~prior to his~~ BEFORE THE PERSON'S  
32 appointment, in addition to possessing the other required  
33 qualifications. A nominee shall be under sixty-five years of  
34 age at the time ~~his~~ THE NOMINEE'S name is submitted to the  
35 governor.

36 5. Article VI, section 38, Constitution of Arizona, is proposed to  
37 be amended as follows if approved by the voters and on proclamation of the  
38 Governor:

39 38. Declaration of candidacy; form of judicial  
40 ballot, rejection and retention; failure to  
41 file declaration

42 Section 38. A. ~~A~~ ANY justice or judge of the supreme  
43 court or an intermediate appellate court ~~shall file in the~~  
44 ~~office of the secretary of state~~, and ~~a~~ ANY judge of the  
45 superior court or other court of record including such justices

1 or judges who are holding office as such by election or  
2 appointment at the time of the adoption of this section OR ANY  
3 AMENDMENT TO THIS SECTION except for judges of the superior  
4 court and other courts of record inferior to the superior court  
5 in counties having a population of less than two hundred fifty  
6 thousand persons, according to the United States census, shall  
7 BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE OF RETENTION ON THE OCCURRENCE OF ANY OF  
8 THE FOLLOWING:

9 1. A FINAL CONVICTION OF A FELONY OFFENSE IF NOT  
10 OTHERWISE REMOVED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE VI.I, SECTION 3.

11 2. A FINAL CONVICTION OF ANY CRIME INVOLVING FRAUD OR  
12 DISHONESTY IF NOT OTHERWISE REMOVED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE VI.I,  
13 SECTION 3.

14 3. AN INITIATION OF PERSONAL BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS IN  
15 WHICH THE JUSTICE OR JUDGE IS A DEBTOR.

16 4. A FORECLOSURE OF ANY MORTGAGE FOR WHICH THE JUSTICE  
17 OR JUDGE IS A MORTGAGOR.

18 5. A DETERMINATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 42 OF THIS  
19 ARTICLE, BY A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON  
20 JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW, THAT THE JUSTICE OR JUDGE DOES NOT  
21 MEET JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.

22 B. A JUSTICE OR JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT OR AN  
23 INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE COURT WHO IS SUBJECT TO A VOTE OF  
24 RETENTION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION SHALL FILE  
25 IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AND A JUDGE OF THE  
26 SUPERIOR COURT WHO IS SUBJECT TO A VOTE OF RETENTION PURSUANT  
27 TO SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION SHALL file in the office of the  
28 clerk of the board of supervisors of the county in which ~~he~~ THE  
29 JUSTICE OR JUDGE regularly sits and resides, not less than sixty  
30 nor more than ninety days ~~prior to~~ BEFORE the regular general  
31 election ~~next preceding the expiration of his term of office~~  
32 SUBSEQUENT TO THE EVENT REQUIRING A VOTE OF RETENTION, a  
33 declaration of ~~his~~ THE JUSTICE'S OR JUDGE'S desire to be  
34 retained in office, and the secretary of state shall certify to  
35 the several boards of supervisors the appropriate names of the  
36 candidate or candidates appearing on such declarations filed in  
37 ~~his~~ THE JUSTICE'S OR JUDGE'S office, EXCEPT THAT IF THE EVENT  
38 REQUIRING A VOTE OF RETENTION OCCURS LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED  
39 TWENTY DAYS BEFORE A REGULAR GENERAL ELECTION, THE DECLARATION  
40 SHALL BE FILED NOT LESS THAN SIXTY NOR MORE THAN NINETY DAYS  
41 BEFORE THE NEXT ENSUING REGULAR GENERAL ELECTION. NOT LATER  
42 THAN ONE HUNDRED TWENTY DAYS BEFORE A REGULAR GENERAL ELECTION,  
43 THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT SHALL PROVIDE TO THE  
44 SECRETARY OF STATE A LIST OF ALL JUSTICES OR JUDGES WHO ARE  
45 SUBJECT TO A VOTE OF RETENTION AT SUCH ELECTION PURSUANT TO

1 SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION. THE DETERMINATION OF WHETHER A  
2 JUSTICE OR JUDGE IS SUBJECT TO RETENTION SHALL BE MADE BY THE  
3 CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, EXCEPT THAT, WITH RESPECT  
4 TO ANY EVENT REQUIRING A VOTE OF RETENTION INVOLVING THE CHIEF  
5 JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, THE DETERMINATION SHALL BE MADE  
6 BY THE VICE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT.

7 ~~B.~~ C. The name of any justice or judge whose declaration  
8 is filed as provided in this section shall be placed on the  
9 appropriate official ballot at the next regular general election  
10 under a nonpartisan designation and in substantially the  
11 following form:

12 Shall \_\_\_\_\_, (Name of justice or judge) of the  
13 \_\_\_\_\_ court be retained in office? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ (Mark X  
14 after one).

15 ~~C.~~ D. If a majority of those voting on the question  
16 votes "No," ~~then, upon the expiration of the term for which such~~  
17 ~~justice or judge was serving~~ ON JANUARY 1 OF THE YEAR FOLLOWING  
18 THE GENERAL ELECTION, a vacancy shall exist, which shall be  
19 filled as provided by this article. If a majority of those  
20 voting on the question votes "Yes," such justice or judge shall  
21 remain in office ~~for another term~~, subject to removal as  
22 provided by this constitution.

23 ~~D.~~ E. The votes shall be counted and canvassed and the  
24 result declared as in the case of state and county elections,  
25 whereupon a certificate of retention or rejection of the  
26 incumbent justice or judge shall be delivered to ~~him~~ THE  
27 INCUMBENT by the secretary of state or the clerk of the board  
28 of supervisors, as the case may be.

29 ~~E.~~ F. If a justice or JUDGE WHO IS SUBJECT TO RETENTION  
30 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION fails to file a  
31 declaration of ~~his~~ THE JUSTICE'S OR JUDGE'S desire to be  
32 retained in office, as required by ~~this section~~ SUBSECTION B OF  
33 THIS SECTION, ~~then his~~ THE JUSTICE'S OR JUDGE'S office shall  
34 become vacant ~~upon expiration of the term for which such justice~~  
35 ~~or judge was serving~~ ON JANUARY 1 OF THE YEAR FOLLOWING THE  
36 GENERAL ELECTION IN WHICH THE JUSTICE OR JUDGE WOULD HAVE BEEN  
37 A CANDIDATE FOR RETENTION.

38 G. ANY JUDGE OF AN INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE COURT WHO IS  
39 SUBJECT TO A VOTE OF RETENTION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION A OF THIS  
40 SECTION SHALL BE ELECTED FOR RETENTION ON A STATEWIDE BASIS AND  
41 ALL OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE REGISTERED VOTERS IN THIS STATE ARE  
42 ELIGIBLE TO VOTE ON SUCH RETENTION ELECTIONS.

1           6. Article VI, section 39, Constitution of Arizona, is proposed to  
2 be amended as follows if approved by the voters and on proclamation of the  
3 Governor:

4           39. Retirement of justices and judges; vacancies

5           Section 39. A. On attaining the age of seventy years a  
6 justice or judge of a court of record shall retire and ~~his~~ THE  
7 JUSTICE'S OR JUDGE'S judicial office shall be vacant, except as  
8 otherwise provided in section 35 of this article. In addition  
9 to becoming vacant as provided in this section, the office of a  
10 justice or judge of any court of record becomes vacant ~~upon his~~  
11 ON THE JUSTICE'S OR JUDGE'S death or ~~his~~ THE JUSTICE'S OR JUDGE'S  
12 voluntary retirement pursuant to statute or ~~his~~ THE JUSTICE'S  
13 OR JUDGE'S voluntary resignation, and also, IF SUBJECT TO A VOTE  
14 OF RETENTION as provided in section 38 of this article, ~~upon~~  
15 ~~the expiration of his term~~ ON JANUARY 1 OF THE YEAR next  
16 following a general election at which a majority of those voting  
17 on the question of ~~his~~ THE JUSTICE'S OR JUDGE'S retention vote  
18 in the negative or for which general election ~~he~~ THE JUSTICE OR  
19 JUDGE is required, but fails, to file a declaration of ~~his~~ THE  
20 JUSTICE'S OR JUDGE'S desire to be retained in office.

21           B. This section is alternative to and cumulative with  
22 the methods of removal of judges and justices provided in  
23 ARTICLE VI.I AND ARTICLE VIII, parts 1 and 2 ~~of article 8 and~~  
24 ~~article 6.1~~ of this Constitution.

25           7. Article VI, section 41, Constitution of Arizona, is proposed  
26 to be amended as follows if approved by the voters and on proclamation  
27 of the Governor:

28           41. Superior court divisions; commission on trial  
29 court appointments; membership; terms

30           Section 41. A. Except as otherwise provided, judges of  
31 the superior court in counties having a population of two  
32 hundred fifty thousand persons or more according to the most  
33 recent United States census shall hold office ~~for a regular term~~  
34 ~~of four years~~ DURING GOOD BEHAVIOR, AS DETERMINED EXCLUSIVELY  
35 THROUGH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE AND ARTICLES VI.I AND  
36 VIII.

37           B. There shall be a nonpartisan commission on trial court  
38 appointments for each county having a population of two hundred  
39 fifty thousand persons or more according to the most recent  
40 United States census which shall be composed of the following  
41 members:

42           1. The chief justice of the supreme court, who shall be  
43 the chairman of the commission. In the event of the absence or  
44 incapacity of the chairman the supreme court shall appoint a  
45 justice thereof to serve in his place and stead.

1           2. Five attorney members, none of whom shall reside in  
2 the same supervisorial district and not more than three of whom  
3 shall be members of the same political party, who are nominated  
4 by the board of governors of the state bar of Arizona and who  
5 are appointed by the governor subject to confirmation by the  
6 senate in the manner prescribed by law.

7           3. Ten nonattorney members, no more than two of whom  
8 shall reside in the same supervisorial district.

9           C. At least ninety days ~~prior to~~ BEFORE a term expiring  
10 or within twenty-one days of a vacancy occurring for a  
11 nonattorney member on the commission for trial court  
12 appointments, the member of the board of supervisors from the  
13 district in which the vacancy has occurred shall appoint a  
14 nominating committee of seven members who reside in the  
15 district, not more than four of whom may be from the same  
16 political party. The ~~make-up~~ MAKEUP of the committee ~~shall~~, to  
17 the extent feasible, SHALL reflect the diversity of the  
18 population of the district. Members shall not be attorneys and  
19 shall not hold any governmental office, elective or appointive,  
20 for profit. The committee shall provide public notice that a  
21 vacancy exists and shall solicit, review and forward to the  
22 governor all applications along with the committee's  
23 recommendations for appointment. The governor shall appoint  
24 two persons from each supervisorial district who shall not be  
25 of the same political party, subject to confirmation by the  
26 senate in the manner prescribed by law.

27           D. In making or confirming appointments to trial court  
28 commissions, the governor, the senate and the state bar shall  
29 endeavor to see that the commission reflects the diversity of  
30 the county's population.

31           E. Members of the commission shall serve staggered four  
32 year terms, except that initial appointments for the five  
33 additional nonattorney members and the two additional attorney  
34 members of the commission shall be designated by the governor  
35 as follows:

36           1. One appointment for a nonattorney member shall be for  
37 a one-year term.

38           2. Two appointments for nonattorney members shall be for  
39 a two-year term.

40           3. Two appointments for nonattorney members shall be for  
41 a three-year term.

42           4. One appointment for an attorney member shall be for a  
43 one-year term.

44           5. One appointment for an attorney member shall be for a  
45 two-year term.



1 F. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired terms in  
2 the same manner as the original appointments.

3 G. Attorney members of the commission shall have resided  
4 in this state and shall have been admitted to practice in this  
5 state by the supreme court for at least five years and shall  
6 have resided in the supervisory district from which they are  
7 appointed for at least one year. Nonattorney members shall have  
8 resided in this state for at least five years, shall have resided  
9 in the supervisory district for at least one year before being  
10 nominated and shall not be judges, retired judges nor admitted  
11 to practice before the supreme court. None of the attorney or  
12 nonattorney members of the commission shall hold any  
13 governmental office, elective or appointive, for profit and no  
14 attorney member is eligible for appointment to any judicial  
15 office of this state until one year after membership in the  
16 commission terminates.

17 H. No person other than the chief justice shall serve at  
18 the same time as a member of more than one judicial appointment  
19 commission.

20 I. The commission shall submit the names of not less than  
21 three individuals for nomination for the office of ~~the~~ superior  
22 court judge pursuant to section 37 of this article.

23 J. ~~Prior to~~ BEFORE making recommendations to the  
24 governor, the commission shall conduct investigations, hold  
25 public hearings and take public testimony. An executive session  
26 as prescribed by rule may be held upon a two-thirds vote of the  
27 members of the commission in a public hearing. Final decisions  
28 as to recommendations shall be made without regard to political  
29 affiliation in an impartial and objective manner. The  
30 commission shall consider the diversity of the county's  
31 population and the geographical distribution of the residences  
32 of the judges throughout the county, however the primary  
33 consideration shall be merit. Voting shall be in a public  
34 hearing. The expenses of meetings of the commission and the  
35 attendance of members thereof for travel and subsistence shall  
36 be paid from the general fund of the state as state officers  
37 are paid, upon claims approved by the chairman.

38 K. After public hearings the supreme court shall adopt  
39 rules of procedure for the commission on trial court  
40 appointments.

~~t. The members of the commission who were appointed pursuant to section 36 of this article prior to the effective date of this section may continue to serve until the expiration of their normal terms. All subsequent appointments shall be made as prescribed by this section.~~

8. Article VI, section 42, Constitution of Arizona, is proposed to be amended as follows if approved by the voters and on proclamation of the Governor:

42. Retention evaluation of justices and judges

Section 42. A. The supreme court shall adopt, after public hearings, and administer for all justices and ~~JUDGES OF THE INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE COURTS AND~~ judges ~~who file a declaration to be retained in office,~~ OF THE SUPERIOR COURT IN A COUNTY WITH A POPULATION OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PERSONS OR MORE ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT UNITED STATES CENSUS OR IN A COUNTY WITH A POPULATION OF LESS THAN TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PERSONS ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT UNITED STATES CENSUS THAT CHOOSES TO SELECT ITS JUDGES OF THE SUPERIOR COURT AS IF IT HAD A POPULATION OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PERSONS OR MORE a COMMISSION AND process, established by court rules for evaluating judicial performance. The rules shall PROVIDE THAT EACH JUSTICE OR JUDGE SHALL BE EVALUATED NOT LESS FREQUENTLY THAN EVERY FOUR YEARS FROM THE YEAR OF FIRST APPOINTMENT, AND SHALL include written performance standards and performance reviews which survey opinions of persons who have knowledge of the justice's or judge's performance.

B. A MAJORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL APPOINT ONE MEMBER TO THE COMMISSION AND A MAJORITY OF THE SENATE SHALL APPOINT ONE MEMBER TO THE COMMISSION. THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE HAVE COMPLETE DISCRETION IN APPOINTING MEMBERS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, AND SUCH MEMBERS SHALL HAVE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES EQUAL TO ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

C. UPON WRITTEN REQUEST OF A LEGISLATOR, THE COMMISSION SHALL INVESTIGATE AN ALLEGATION THAT A JUSTICE OR JUDGE HAS ENGAGED IN A PATTERN OF MALFEASANCE IN OFFICE. IF THE COMMISSION FINDS THAT THE JUSTICE OR JUDGE HAS ENGAGED IN A PATTERN OF MALFEASANCE IN OFFICE, THE COMMISSION SHALL MAKE A DETERMINATION THAT THE JUSTICE OR JUDGE DOES NOT MEET JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.

D. The public shall be afforded a full and fair opportunity for participation in the evaluation process through public hearings, dissemination of evaluation reports to voters and any other methods as the court deems advisable.

Sec. 9. Effective date

1           If approved by a majority of the votes cast thereon, this  
2 act applies retroactively to from and after October 31, 2024,  
3 and the returns of any votes of retention or rejection in the  
4 general election held on November 5, 2024 shall not be included  
5 in the official canvass or result in the issuance of any  
6 certificate of retention or rejection.

7           Sec. 10. Findings

8           The People of the State of Arizona find and declare as  
9 follows:

10          1. Judicial retention elections in the State of Arizona  
11 are simultaneously too infrequent, because judges whose conduct  
12 proves unsuitable for judicial office may serve for years before  
13 next standing for retention; and too frequent, because judges  
14 whose conduct is objectively satisfactory stand for retention  
15 regardless of their good behavior and performance.

16          2. The voters of the State of Arizona have exercised the  
17 right not to retain a judge in 0.3% of judicial retention  
18 elections to date, indicating both general satisfaction with  
19 judicial performance in the state and an ongoing public interest  
20 in electoral accountability for the judicial branch.

21          3. The number of judicial retention elections appearing  
22 on the ballot unduly increases the financial cost of elections,  
23 the length and complexity of ballots, and the complexity and  
24 duration of vote tabulation.

25          4. The voters of the State of Arizona will be able to  
26 research judicial performance more efficiently, and persons who  
27 are not well suited for judicial office will be unable to "hide  
28 in a crowd" of peers, when retention elections feature only  
29 judicial officers whose conduct falls below objective standards.

30          5. It is appropriate to amend the process of judicial  
31 retention elections to ensure accountability for the judicial  
32 officers of this State and to increase the efficiency of our  
33 elections.

34           Sec. 11. Short title

35           This act shall be titled the "Judicial Accountability Act  
36 of 2024."

37          12. The Secretary of State shall submit this proposition to the  
38 voters at the next general election as provided by article XXI, Constitution  
39 of Arizona.

PASSED BY THE HOUSE JUNE 12, 2024.

PASSED BY THE SENATE MARCH 6, 2024.

S.C.R. 1044

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE JUNE 13, 2024.