

2024 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILFORD CARTER

JUDGES/SUPREME COURT: (Constitutional Amendment) Provides that the supreme court shall be composed of nine justices (Item #4)

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article V, Sections 3 and 4 of the Constitution of Louisiana, to change the composition of the supreme court; to change the districts of the supreme court; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article V, Sections 3 and 4 of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§3. Supreme Court; Composition; Judgments; Terms

Section 3. The supreme court shall be composed of a chief justice and ~~six~~ eight associate justices, ~~four~~ five of whom must concur to render judgment. The term of a supreme court judge shall be ten years.

§4. Supreme Court; Districts

Section 4. The state shall be divided into ~~at least six~~ nine supreme court districts, and ~~at least~~ one judge shall be elected from each. The districts and the number of judges assigned to each on the effective date of this constitution are retained, subject to change by law enacted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature.

1 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted  
2 to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 5,  
3 2024.

4 Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election,  
5 there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted  
6 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as  
7 follows:

8 Do you support an amendment to add two associate justices to the supreme  
9 court, to require the concurrence of five justices, and to change the number  
10 of supreme court districts from a minimum of six to nine? (Amends Article  
11 V, Sections 3 and 4)

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 1 Original                                      2024 First Extraordinary Session                                      Wilford Carter

**Abstract:** Changes the composition of the supreme court from six associate justices to eight associate justices and the number of districts from a minimum of six to nine.

Present constitution provides that the supreme court shall be composed of a chief justice and six associate justices, four of whom must concur to render judgment.

Proposed constitutional amendment changes the number of associate justices from six to eight, and increases from four to five the number of justices who must concur to render judgment.

Present constitution provides that the state shall be divided into at least six supreme court districts, and at least one justice shall be elected from each.

Proposed constitutional amendment increases the number of supreme court districts to nine.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Nov. 5, 2024.

(Amends Const. Art. V, §§3 and 4)