

By: Raymond

H.J.R. No. 61

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment to increase the terms of
2 district judges to six years.

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

4 SECTION 1. Section 7, Article V, Texas Constitution, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Sec. 7. The State shall be divided into judicial districts,
7 with each district having one or more Judges as may be provided by
8 law or by this Constitution. Each district judge shall be elected
9 by the qualified voters at a General Election and shall be a citizen
10 of the United States and of this State, who is licensed to practice
11 law in this State and has been a practicing lawyer or a Judge of a
12 Court in this State, or both combined, for four (4) years next
13 preceding the judge's [~~his~~] election, who has resided in the
14 district in which the judge [~~he~~] was elected for two (2) years next
15 preceding the [~~his~~] election, and who shall reside in the [~~his~~]
16 district during the judge's [~~his~~] term of office and hold the [~~his~~]
17 office for the period of six (6) [~~four (4)~~] years, and who shall
18 receive for the judge's [~~his~~] services an annual salary to be fixed
19 by the Legislature. The Court shall conduct its proceedings at the
20 county seat of the county in which the case is pending, except as
21 otherwise provided by law. The judge [~~he~~] shall hold the regular
22 terms of the judge's [~~his~~] Court at the County Seat of each County
23 in the [~~his~~] district in such manner as may be prescribed by law.
24 The Legislature shall have power by General or Special Laws to make

1 such provisions concerning the terms or sessions of each Court as it
2 may deem necessary.

3 The Legislature shall also provide for the holding of
4 District Court when the Judge thereof is absent, or is from any
5 cause disabled or disqualified from presiding.

6 SECTION 2. The following temporary provision is added to
7 the Texas Constitution:

8 TEMPORARY PROVISION. (a) This temporary provision applies
9 to the constitutional amendment proposed by the 82nd Legislature,
10 Regular Session, 2011, providing a six-year term for a district
11 judge.

12 (b) The amendment to Section 7, Article V, of this
13 constitution takes effect January 1, 2012, and applies only to the
14 term of a district judge that begins on or after that date. The term
15 of a district judge who was elected or appointed before January 1,
16 2012, expires, unless the judge is otherwise removed as provided by
17 law, at the end of the term to which the judge was elected or
18 appointed. On the expiration of that term, the length of the next
19 elected term for the judge of that district is six years.

20 (c) This temporary provision expires January 1, 2016.

21 SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
22 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 8, 2011.
23 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
24 proposition: "The constitutional amendment to increase the term
25 of a district judge to six years."