By: Hinojosa   S.J.R. No. 25

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment increasing the amount of time

2 a person must have been a practicing lawyer or judge to be eligible

3 to serve as a district court judge.

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

5   SECTION 1. Section 7, Article V, Texas Constitution, is

6 amended to read as follows:

7   Sec. 7. The State shall be divided into judicial districts,

8 with each district having one or more Judges as may be provided by

9 law or by this Constitution. Each district judge shall be elected

10 by the qualified voters at a General Election and shall be a citizen

11 of the United States and of this State, who is licensed to practice

12 law in this State and has been a practicing lawyer or a Judge of a

13 Court in this State, or both combined, for 10 [four (4)] years next

14 preceding the judge's [his] election, who has resided in the

15 district in which the judge [he] was elected for two [(2)] years

16 next preceding the judge's [his] election, and who shall reside in

17 the [his] district during the judge's [his] term of office and hold

18 [his] office for the period of four [(4)] years, and who shall

19 receive for the judge's [his] services an annual salary to be fixed

20 by the Legislature. The Court shall conduct its proceedings at the

21 county seat of the county in which the case is pending, except as

22 otherwise provided by law. The judge [He] shall hold the regular

23 terms of [his] Court at the County Seat of each County in the [his]

24 district in such manner as may be prescribed by law.   The

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1 Legislature shall have power by General or Special Laws to make such

2 provisions concerning the terms or sessions of each Court as it may

3 deem necessary.

4   The Legislature shall also provide for the holding of

5 District Court when the Judge thereof is absent, or is from any

6 cause disabled or disqualified from presiding.

7   SECTION 2.　The following temporary provision is added to

8 the Texas Constitution:

9   TEMPORARY PROVISION.　(a)　This temporary provision applies

10 to the constitutional amendment proposed by the 86th Legislature,

11 Regular Session, 2019, increasing the amount of time a person must

12 have been a practicing lawyer or judge to be eligible to serve as a

13 district court judge.　The constitutional amendment takes effect

14 January 1, 2020, and applies only to a person elected on or after

15 that date to serve as a judge.

16   (b)　This temporary provision expires January 1, 2027.

17   SECTION 3.　This proposed constitutional amendment shall be

18 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 5, 2019.

19 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the

20 proposition:　"The constitutional amendment increasing the amount

21 of time a person must have been a practicing lawyer or judge to be

22 eligible to serve as a district court judge."