

2024 First Extraordinary Session

SENATE BILL NO. 3

BY SENATOR MIGUEZ

COURTS. Provides for the statewide election of supreme court justices. (Item #3)(2/3 - CA5s4)

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article V, Section 3 of the Constitution of Louisiana and to repeal Article V, Section 4 of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to the supreme court; to provide for statewide election of justices; to repeal supreme court district configurations; and to specify an election for submission of the proposition to electors and provide a ballot proposition.

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, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article V, Section 3 and to repeal Article V, Section 4 of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§3. Supreme Court; Composition; Judgments; **Elections**; Terms

Section 3. The supreme court shall be composed of a chief justice and six associate justices, four of whom must concur to render judgment. ~~The term of a supreme court judge shall be ten years.~~ **Each justice shall be elected for a term of ten years by the electors of the state.**

~~§4. Supreme Court; Districts~~

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

6 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to
7 the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 5,
8 2024.

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

13 Do you support an amendment to eliminate supreme court districts and
14 provide for the statewide election of supreme court justices?

15 (Amends Article V, Section 3 and repeals Article V, Section 4)

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Matt DeVille.

DIGEST

SB 3 Original

2024 First Extraordinary Session

Miguez

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. Further provides that the term of a justice shall be ten years.

Present constitution provides that the state shall be divided into at least six supreme court districts, and at least one judge shall be elected from each. Further provides that the districts and number of judges assigned to each are subject to change by law enacted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains the composition of the court and length of term in present constitution and provides that each justice shall be elected statewide.

Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on November 5, 2024.

(Amends Const. Art. V, Sec. 3; repeals Const. Art. V, Sec. 4)