

Joe Hayes

From: Penny Goodstein <pennygoodstein@alaska.com>
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 10:10 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: please do NOT PASS SJR13

SJR13 is an executive branch power grab. Our current system to choose judges is -not broken and doesn't need to be altered. We have been able to have competent, non-parisan judges based on this system.

The constitution writers crafted a very well thought-out process. The resolution destroys the real function of the Judicial Council as a screening device to ensure only the most qualified candidates are sent for nomination to these courts. The Governor's unchecked power to pick judges without a robust review and nomination process was wisely withheld from the long list of powers that the Governor was given. The bill if adopted would allow the Governor to appoint anyone who meets the minimum qualifications of an Alaska bar license in Alaska to the bench. It could create a system of nomination if the nominee promises to support the Governor's agenda that is not possible under the current system.

The present system keeps politics out of the selection process.

The Alaska Judicial Council provides important guardrails against an incompetent or politicized judiciary through their ability to screen and nominate judicial applicants. We should be looking for judicial candidates with the MAXIMUM not allowing the minimum qualifications and politics to enter the decision process.

Penny Goodstein
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