



March 19 , 2025

PO Box 101345  
Anchorage, AK 99510-1345

Senate State Affairs Committee

Dear Senators:

The League of Women Voters of Alaska (LWVAK) is in opposition to SJR 13, which proposes amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to the appointment of state judges by the governor.

LWVAK is a nonpartisan organization that neither supports nor opposes candidates or political parties. We do take positions on issues of civic importance after focused study and a consensus process.

In 2016, after a several month study that included a review of state judicial selection and retention systems from across the U.S., LWVAK issued a position statement supporting the merit-based process provided for in the Alaska Constitution.

From the position statement: "A merit-based process tasks a non-political panel of legal and non-legal members (Alaska Judicial Council) to evaluate judicial applicants on such factors as experience, legal knowledge and judicial temperament. Only the best qualified, tallest timber candidates are then forwarded for nomination by the panel. This merit-based system reduces opportunity for political bias, is transparent, and better serves the concept of equal justice for all..."

SJR 13 would remove the comprehensive evaluation role of the Alaska Judicial Council and allow for forwarding to the governor the names of any judicial candidate that meets only the basic qualifications outlined in the State's Constitution: U.S. and Alaska citizenship and licensed to practice law in the state.

Heather Arnett

Board Member

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Alaska Board

(Position statement attached)