

1 IN THE SENATE

BY BRADLEY

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Proposing amendments to the Constitution
6 of the State of Alaska providing for the
7 election of supreme court justices and
8 superior court judges.

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. Article IV, sec. 2, Constitution of the State of Alaska is
11 amended to read:

12 SECTION 2. SUPREME COURT. (a) The supreme court shall be the
13 highest court of the State, with final appellate jurisdiction. It shall
14 consist of five [THREE] justices, one of whom is chief justice. The
15 number of justices may be increased by law upon the request of the
16 supreme court.

17 (b) The chief justice shall be selected from among the justices of
18 the supreme court by a majority vote of the justices. His term of
19 office as chief justice expires at the end of his term of office as a
20 supreme court justice [IS THREE YEARS]. A justice may not serve more
21 than one term or portion of a term as chief justice [BUT HE MAY NOT
22 SERVE CONSECUTIVE TERMS IN THAT OFFICE].

23 * Sec. 2. Article IV, Constitution of the State of Alaska is amended by
24 adding new sections to read:

25 SECTION 17. ELECTION OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICES. Each supreme
26 court justice shall be chosen at a general election by the qualified
27 voters of the State. Each candidate for supreme court justice shall run
28 for a designated supreme court justice position. The candidate in each
29 position receiving the greatest number of votes shall be the supreme

1 court justice for that position. No more than two-fifths of the supreme
2 court justice positions shall be filled at one general election.

3 SECTION 18. TERM OF OFFICE OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICES. The term of
4 office of a supreme court justice is six years, beginning at noon on the
5 first Monday in December following his election and ending at noon on
6 the first Monday in December six years later.

7 SECTION 19. ELECTION OF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES. Each superior
8 court judge shall be chosen at a general election by the qualified
9 voters of the judicial district in which he seeks to serve. Each can-
10 didate for superior court judge shall run for a designated superior
11 court judge position. The candidate in each position receiving the
12 greatest number of votes shall be the superior court judge for that
13 position.

14 SECTION 20. TERM OF OFFICE OF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES. The term of
15 office of a superior court judge is four years, beginning at noon on the
16 first Monday in December following his election and ending at noon on
17 the first Monday in December four years later.

18 SECTION 21. TERM OF OFFICE OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICES AND SUPERIOR
19 COURT JUDGES APPOINTED UNDER PRIOR CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS. Notwith-
20 standing Sections 17 - 20 of this article, the term of office of each
21 supreme court justice and superior court judge appointed before the
22 effective date of the repeal of Section 6 of this article expires at
23 noon on the first Monday in December following the general election at
24 which he would next have been subject to approval or rejection.

25 SECTION 22. VACANCY. In case of a vacancy in the office of a
26 supreme court justice or superior court judge for any reason, the
27 governor may appoint a qualified person to fill the office for the
28 unexpired portion of the term.

29 * Sec. 3. Article IV, secs. 5, 6, and 7, Constitution of the State of

1 Alaska are repealed.

2 * Sec. 4. The amendments proposed by this resolution shall be placed
3 before the voters of the state at the next general election in conformity
4 with art. XIII, sec. 1, Constitution of the State of Alaska, and the election
5 laws of the state.

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