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BY MARTIN, BETTISWORTH AND  
RANDOLPH

1 IN THE HOUSE

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

Proposing amendments to the Consti-  
tution of the State of Alaska pro-  
viding for the election of supreme  
court justices and superior court  
judges.

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 17. ELECTION OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICES. Each supreme  
court justice shall be chosen at a general election by the qualified  
voters of the State. Each candidate for supreme court justice shall run  
for a designated supreme court justice position. The candidate in each

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

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

8 SECTION 19. LIMIT ON TENURE OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICES. No person  
9 who has been elected a supreme court justice for two full successive  
10 terms shall again be eligible to hold office as a supreme court justice  
11 until two years have intervened.

12 SECTION 20. ELECTION OF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES. Each superior  
13 court judge shall be chosen at a general election by the qualified  
14 voters of the judicial district in which he seeks to serve. Each can-  
15 didate for superior court judge shall run for a designated superior  
16 court judge position. The candidate in each position receiving the  
17 greatest number of votes shall be the superior court judge for that  
18 position.

19 SECTION 21. TERM OF OFFICE OF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES. The term of  
20 office of a superior court judge is four years, beginning at noon on the  
21 first Monday in December following his election and ending at noon on  
22 the first Monday in December four years later.

23 SECTION 22. LIMIT ON TENURE OF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES. No person  
24 who has been elected a superior court judge for three full successive  
25 terms shall again be eligible to hold office as a superior court judge  
26 until two years have intervened.

27 SECTION 23. TERM OF OFFICE OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICES AND SUPERIOR  
28 COURT JUDGES APPOINTED UNDER PRIOR CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS. Notwith-  
29 standing Sections 17 - 22 of this article, the term of office of each

1 supreme court justice and superior court judge appointed before the  
2 effective date of the repeal of Section 6 of this article expires at  
3 noon on the first Monday in December following the general election at  
4 which he would next have been subject to approval or rejection. Ap-  
5 proval under former Section 6 of this article is not an election to  
6 office for purposes of the limitations on tenure specified in Sections  
7 19 and 22 of this article.

8 SECTION 24. VACANCY. In case of a vacancy in the office of a  
9 supreme court justice or superior court judge for any reason, the gover-  
10 nor may appoint a qualified person to fill the office for the unexpired  
11 portion of the term.  
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