

**Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Arkansas Constitution.**

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025

HJR 1015

4  
5 By: Representatives Lundstrum, Achor, Andrews, Barker, Beck, Bentley, A. Brown, K. Brown, N.  
6 Burkes, R. Burkes, Joey Carr, John Carr, Cavanaugh, Crawford, Duffield, Duke, Eubanks, Furman,  
7 Gonzales, Gramlich, Hall, Holcomb, Hollowell, Jean, Ladyman, Long, J. Mayberry, McAlindon,  
8 McClure, McGrew, McNair, S. Meeks, K. Moore, Nazarenko, Puryear, Ray, Richmond, Rose, Torres,  
9 Tosh, Underwood, Unger, Vaught, Wing, Womack, Wooten  
10 By: Senators G. Stubblefield, A. Clark, Dees, J. Dotson, J. English, Hester, J. Payton, J. Petty, D.  
11 Wallace, Caldwell, Flippo, Hill, B. Johnson, M. Johnson, C. Penzo, Rice, D. Sullivan

12  
13 **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION**

14 AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO ENSURE  
15 TRANSPARENCY BY REQUIRING A CANDIDATE FOR SUPREME  
16 COURT JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE, CIRCUIT JUDGE,  
17 OR DISTRICT JUDGE TO DECLARE HIS OR HER POLITICAL  
18 PARTY AFFILIATION OR INDEPENDENT STATUS WHEN RUNNING  
19 FOR OFFICE AND HAVE THAT POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION  
20 OR INDEPENDENT STATUS REFLECTED ON THE BALLOT.

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22  
23 **Subtitle**

24 A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ENSURE  
25 TRANSPARENCY BY REQUIRING A JUDICIAL  
26 CANDIDATE TO DECLARE HIS OR HER  
27 POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION OR  
28 INDEPENDENT STATUS WHEN RUNNING FOR  
29 OFFICE.

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31 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
32 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL  
33 MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

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35 THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of  
36 the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state



1 for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives  
 2 and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election  
 3 adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of  
 4 the State of Arkansas, to wit:

5  
 6 SECTION 1. INTENT. The purpose of this amendment to the Arkansas  
 7 Constitution is to ensure transparency by requiring a candidate for Supreme  
 8 Court Justice, Court of Appeals Judge, Circuit Judge, or District Judge to  
 9 declare his or her political party affiliation or independent status when  
 10 running for office and have that political party affiliation or independent  
 11 status reflected on the ballot.

12  
 13 SECTION 2. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 80, §§ 17 and 18, are  
 14 amended to read as follows:

15 § 17. Election of ~~circuit and district judges~~ Circuit Judges and  
 16 District Judges.

17 (A) Circuit Judges and District Judges shall be elected ~~on a~~  
 18 ~~nonpartisan basis~~ by a majority of qualified electors voting for such office  
 19 within the circuit or district which they serve.

20 (B) Vacancies in these offices shall be filled as provided by this  
 21 Constitution.

22 (C) A candidate for Circuit Judge or District Judge shall:

23 (1) Have his or her political party affiliation identified on  
 24 the ballot; or

25 (2) Be identified on the ballot as an independent candidate.

26  
 27 § 18. Election of Supreme Court Justices and Court of Appeals Judges.

28 (A) Supreme Court Justices and Court of Appeals Judges shall be  
 29 elected ~~on a nonpartisan basis~~ by a majority of qualified electors voting for  
 30 such office. Provided, however, the General Assembly may refer the issue of  
 31 merit selection of members of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals to a  
 32 vote of the people at any general election. If the voters approve a merit  
 33 selection system, the General Assembly shall enact laws to create a judicial  
 34 nominating commission for the purpose of nominating candidates for merit  
 35 selection to the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

36 (B) Vacancies in these offices shall be filled by appointment of the

1 Governor, unless the voters provide otherwise in a system of merit selection.

2 (C) Unless the voters provide otherwise in a system of merit  
3 selection, a candidate for Supreme Court Justice or Court of Appeals Judge  
4 shall:

5 (1) Have his or political party affiliation identified on the  
6 ballot; or

7 (2) Be identified on the ballot as an independent candidate.

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9 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment to the Arkansas  
10 Constitution is effective on and after January 1, 2027.

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12 SECTION 4. BALLOT TITLE AND POPULAR NAME. When this proposed  
13 amendment is submitted to the electors of this state on the general election  
14 ballot:

15 (1) The title of this Joint Resolution shall be the ballot  
16 title; and

17 (2) The popular name shall be "A Constitutional Amendment to  
18 Ensure Transparency by Requiring a Judicial Candidate to Declare His or Her  
19 Political Party Affiliation or Independent Status When Running for Office."

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