

By the Committee on Judicial and Commissioner Connor

1 A proposal to revise
2 ARTICLE VI, s. 4, and ARTICLE V, s. 10, Fla.
3 Const.; providing that judicial officers may
4 not hold office for more than eight consecutive
5 years; reducing the terms of office for certain
6 judicial officers.

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8 It is proposed by the Florida Constitution Revision Commission
9 that:

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11 Section 1. Section 4 of Article VI of the Florida
12 Constitution is revised by amending that section to read:

13 ARTICLE VI

14 SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

15 SECTION 4. Disqualifications.--

16 (a) No person convicted of a felony, or adjudicated in
17 this or any other state to be mentally incompetent, shall be
18 qualified to vote or hold office until restoration of civil
19 rights or removal of disability.

20 (b) No person may appear on the ballot for re-election
21 or retention to any of the following offices:

- 22 (1) Florida representative,
23 (2) Florida senator,
24 (3) Florida Lieutenant governor,
25 (4) any office of the Florida cabinet,
26 (5) U.S. Representative from Florida, ~~or~~
27 (6) U.S. Senator from Florida, or
28 (7) Any office of the judiciary

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1 if, by the end of the current term of office, the person will
2 have served (or, but for resignation, would have served) in
3 that office for eight consecutive years.

4 Section 2. Section 10 of Article V of the Florida
5 Constitution is revised by amending that section to read:

6 ARTICLE V

7 JUDICIARY

8 SECTION 10. Retention; election and terms.--

9 (a) Any justice of the supreme court or any judge of a
10 district court of appeal may qualify for retention by a vote
11 of the electors in the general election next preceding the
12 expiration of his term in the manner prescribed by law. If a
13 justice or judge is ineligible or fails to qualify for
14 retention, a vacancy shall exist in that office upon the
15 expiration of the term being served by the justice or judge.
16 When a justice of the supreme court or a judge of a district
17 court of appeal so qualifies, the ballot shall read
18 substantially as follows: "Shall Justice (or Judge) ...(name
19 of justice or judge)... of the ...(name of the court)... be
20 retained in office?" If a majority of the qualified electors
21 voting within the territorial jurisdiction of the court vote
22 to retain, the justice or judge shall be retained for a term
23 of four ~~six~~ years commencing on the first Tuesday after the
24 first Monday in January following the general election. If a
25 majority of the qualified electors voting within the
26 territorial jurisdiction of the court vote to not retain, a
27 vacancy shall exist in that office upon the expiration of the
28 term being served by the justice or judge.

29 (b) Circuit judges and judges of county courts shall
30 be elected by vote of the qualified electors within the
31 territorial jurisdiction of their respective courts. The

1 terms of circuit judges shall be for four ~~six~~ years. The
2 terms of judges of county courts shall be for four years.
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