

Initiative 2023-2024 #250: Judicial Retention Elections FINAL TEXT

Proposed Initiative 2023-2024 #250

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

Section 1. In the Constitution of the State of Colorado, Article VI, **amend** Section 25 as follows:

Section 25. Election of justices and judges.

A justice of the supreme court or a judge of any other court of record, who shall desire to retain THE judicial office for another term after the expiration of THE then term of office shall file with the secretary of state, not more than six months nor less than three months prior to the general election next prior to the expiration of THE then term of office, a declaration of THE intent to run for another term. Failure to file such a declaration within the time specified shall create a vacancy in that office at the end of THE then term of office. Upon the filing of such a declaration, a question shall be placed on the appropriate ballot at such general election, as follows:

“Shall Justice (Judge) of the Supreme (or other) Court be retained in office?

YES/.../NO/.../.” If ~~a majority~~ FIFTY-FIVE PERCENT OR MORE of those voting on the question vote “Yes”, the justice or judge is thereupon elected to a succeeding full term. If ~~a majority of those voting on the question vote “No”~~, FEWER THAN FIFTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THOSE VOTING ON THIS QUESTION VOTE “YES”, this will cause a vacancy to exist in that office at the end of ~~his~~ THE JUSTICE’S OR JUDGE’S then present term of office.

In the case of a justice of the supreme court or any intermediate appellate court, the electors of the state at large; in the case of a judge of a district court, the electors of that judicial district; and in the case of a judge of the county court or other court of record, the electors of that county; shall vote on the question of retention in office of the justice or judge.

Section 2. Effective date. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT JANUARY 1, 2026.