

RESOLUTION NO. 1327

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE SENSE OF THE COUNTY OF ATCHISON GOVERNING BODY ON THE UPCOMING ELECTION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION

WHEREAS, Atchison County and Leavenworth County comprise the 1st Judicial District in the State of Kansas; and

WHEREAS, the laws of the State of Kansas provide that District Court Judges may be selected either by Governor appointment from a panel of three attorneys submitted to the Governor by a bipartisan committee of lay people and attorneys or by General Election in the District; and

WHEREAS, the Judges of the 1st Judicial District are currently appointed by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, a petition has been circulated to place on the next General election ballot a question requesting we change the selection process from a Governor appointment to a General Election; and

WHEREAS, the question to be place on the ballot reads as follow:

Shall the following be adopted?

The present method of non-partisan selection of judges of the district court in this judicial district by the governor upon nominations by a district nominating commission and subject to retention in office by a vote of the voters shall be discontinued and there is hereby adopted in this judicial district the election of judges of the district court by the voters.

Yes

No

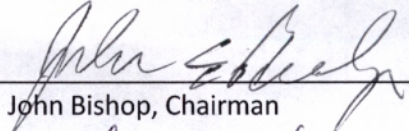
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE COUNTY OF ATCHISON,
KANSAS:**

SECTION 1: We, the Atchison County Commission, believe it is in the public's best interest to retain the current nonpartisan Governor Appointment system for Judges in the first Judicial District and to prevent politics from entering into the selection process which would occur if we went to a General election. The current Governor appointment process requires Judges to stand for retention of office in a General election every 4 years allowing the public an option to remove any sitting Judge if the public so desires. The General election process does not allow this. The current system requires all attorneys submitting their name to the selection committee to undergo a thorough background check and an interview process by the Selection Committee comprised of lay people appointed by our elected County Commissioners and attorneys appointed by their peers. The general election process does not allow this. No special interest groups or campaign contributors are allowed to participate in the nonpartisan Governor appointment process. The general election process on the other hand requires the attorney to campaign for the Judgeship and solicit contributions from the attorneys and lay people to whom they will ultimately serve, which is clearly a conflict of interest and does not provide for an impartial Court for our citizens.

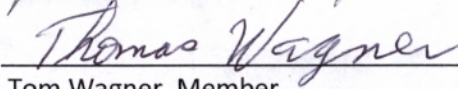
SECTION 2: We wholly support the current nonpartisan system by which the Governor selects the Judge from a panel of three attorneys submitted to the Governor by a bipartisan committee comprised of lay people and attorneys.

SECTION 3: The Atchison County Commission therefore supports a "NO" vote to the ballot question requesting a change from the Governor appointment process for selecting Judges in the 1st Judicial District.

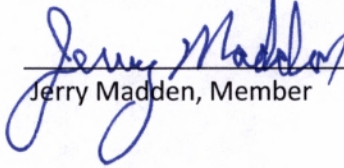
SIGNED this 6th day of October, 2010.



John Bishop, Chairman



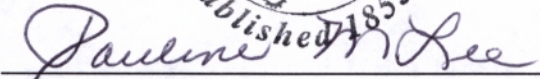
Tom Wagner, Member



Jerry Madden, Member



ATTEST:



Pauline M. Lee, County Clerk