

Jane Tayani

Private citizen

SCR 1611

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY

3/12/2025

My name is Jane Tayani, a voter in Johnson County, Olathe. I am writing to encourage the committee to vote NO on SCR 1611

I believe that politics should stay out of choosing our justices.

Thank you, and I encourage you all to vote NO on the passage of SCR 1611. Thank you.

Cynthia Thompson

Private Citizen

SCR1611

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY

3/13/2025

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee. Thanks for letting me voice my opinions on SCR 1611. I'm Cynthia Thompson, a voter from Salina. I'm asking that you vote NO on SC 1611. I think we have a fine system right now. The selection of judges should be on merit, not politically motivated. And judges should be above politics, not able to engage in politics.

Judges should be protected from outside influences.

Thanks for letting me express my opinion.

Testimony to the House Judiciary Committee

March 13, 2025

SCR 1611 Opponent Written-Only Testimony

Alison Troutwine, private citizen

alisontroutwine@gmail.com

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to SCR 1611. Please keep politics out of our Courts. Justices and judges must be free to rule based on the law, regardless of their political ideology. The Supreme Court has a constitutional obligation to consider cases in the interest of all Kansans who appear before them, not concern themselves with political influences from campaign contributions.

The strength of our current process has stood the test of time and ensures we have qualified nominees for the court. Please vote no on SCR 1611.



Alison Troutwine

Westwood Hills, Kansas

Faith Toelkes

Private citizen

Scr 1611

Opponent

Written only

3/12/2026

Members of the committee I am a constituent in Lenexa, Ks, Faith Toelkes. I am urging you to vote NO on scr 1611.

We need to keep money and political leanings out of our courts; to enable them to make impartial decisions based on law. The merit based system has been and will continue to be the right way to support this.

Do the right thing to protect our independent branches of government and Kansans' rights and futures. Thank you.

Stacie Turner

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SCR 1611

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY

3/13/2025

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SCR 1611 with you today. My name is Stacie Turner and I am a voter in Wichita, KS (Sedgwick County). I am writing today to encourage the committee to VOTE NO on SCR 1611.

Kansas has had a long and stable history of allowing the legal experts in our state to nominate qualified candidates for Kansas Supreme Court Justice. The Supreme Court Nominating Commission, as enshrined in our State Constitution, is the best system to protect judicial freedom and the separation of powers. As such, I implore you to VOTE NO on SCR 1611, which replaces our strong merit-based system.

We should NOT change this method, as it will only insert unneeded and ugly politics and possible corruption into the process. As a lifelong resident of this state, I can assure you that Kansans, no matter their affiliation, do not want to be bombarded with TV ads and mailers full of misinformation and half-truths for the highest judgeships in the state.

For proof of this, look no further than states like Ohio, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina, where elections are held for Supreme Court seats, elections become partisan and result in millions of dollars being poured into these races. In the current Supreme Court election in Wisconsin, over \$59 million has been spent by megadonors on a Supreme Court seat, with over half of that coming from outside the state. I've been following all of those races, and you can trust me when I say: Kansans do NOT want that ugliness in our state.

There is no place for politics in the courts. Justices and judges must be free to rule based on Kansas and federal law. We need a Court that can make decisions fairly, regardless of the

politics, to uphold the Kansas Constitution and protect our Kansas freedoms. We have that now, and any attempts to change it will further erode Kansans' trust in the judicial system.

I thank you again for your service and for listening to everyday Kansans, like myself. I encourage you all to vote NO on SCR 1611. Thank you.

Testimony to the House Judiciary Committee
March 13, 2025
SCR 1611 Opponent Written-Only Testimony
Brianna Vaughn, Private Citizen

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to SCR 1611.

The judicial branch, particularly in states like Kansas, is designed to be an independent and impartial body, free from the pressures and biases of the other branches of government or political agendas. This ensures that justices make decisions based on the law and the facts of each case, rather than political interests. The principle of judicial independence is crucial for upholding the rule of law and protecting the rights of all citizens.

In Kansas, as in many other states, justices are tasked with interpreting and applying the law impartially, which is why it's important that their decisions are not influenced by the legislative or executive branches. This helps maintain public trust in the judicial system and ensures that justice is administered fairly, without favoritism or political interference.

I am asking you to please vote no on SCR 1611.

Brianna Vaughn
Private citizen
Overland Park, KS

Lisa Veglahn

Private Citizen

SCR 1611

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY

3/13/2025

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, I appreciate this opportunity to write about SCR 1611. My name is Lisa Veglahn and I am a voter from Prairie Village, I am writing to strongly encourage you to vote NO on SCR 1611.

My brother has served as a judge for many years in another state that does not hold elections for Supreme Court seats, but he has seen the negative impact of politics on court seats in other states. The merit system has continued to work in Kansas, and there is NO NEED to change it other than political will. Kansans have also shown that they do not take changing the KS Constitution lightly, especially when it is politicians driving those changes.

I appreciate your consideration and encourage you all to vote NO on SCR 1611. Thank you.

Eileen Verbanic

Private citizen

Opposed SCR 1611

Opponent

Written only

3/12/2025

My name is Eileen Verbanic and I'm a voter in Wyandotte County Kansas City Kansas. I'm writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on SCR 1611

Politics should be left out of our courts.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SCR 1611. Thank you

Testimony to the House Judiciary Committee

March 13, 2025

SCR 1611 Opponent Written-Only Testimony

Julia Vering, LSCSW
juliavering1@gmail.com

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to SCR 1611.

Politics has no place in our courts. Judges and justices should be able to make decisions based solely on the law. We need a Court that can impartially uphold the Kansas Constitution, without being swayed by political factors. The Supreme Court has a constitutional duty to rule in the best interest of all Kansans, not to be influenced by political donations or campaigns. Unlike the legislative and executive branches, the judicial branch must remain free from political interference. Justices should prioritize fairness and the well-being of all Kansans, rather than political agendas. The Supreme Court Nominating Commission is the most effective system for safeguarding judicial independence and preserving the separation of powers. In states where Supreme Court seats are filled through elections, these races often become partisan, leading to millions of dollars being spent on campaigns.

Vote no on SCR 1611.

Julia Vering, LSCSW
Overland Park, KS

Greg Vickers

Private citizen

SCR1611

Opponent

WRITTEN ONLY

3/12/2025

Chair Humphries and members of the committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SCR1611 with you today. My name is Greg Vickers and I am writing to you from 66212, Johnson County KS. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SCR1611. We are watching in real time what buying votes in our country does to the American People. We do not want our Supreme Court to be destroyed and can not allow this bill to pass.

Lady Justice is blindfolded for a reason. To remain unbiased, fair and impartial. So it should not matter what you look like, how much money you have, nor what side of the isle you land on politically. The scales she carries is about weighing evidence to decide a verdict. She carries a sword as a symbol of authority and power to punish injustice. Politics do not and should never have any weight in deciding who is guilty of a crime or not. Politics should not have weight to aid those who wish to circumvent the laws of this country. Political affiliations should not sway how the law is interpreted.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my opinion as a tax paying citizen and my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SCR 1611. Thank you."

Jodie Vickers

Private citizen

SCR 1611

Opposite

Written

3/11/2025

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for hearing my thoughts on SCR 1611. I am Jodie Vickers a resident of an Overland Park. I urge you to vote NO on SCR1611

I am a constituent of 66212 in Overland Park, Kansas. I am highly concerned about the changes being proposed to the appointment process of the Kansas Supreme Court.

We are watching in live action how dangerous voting /"buying" seats in any appointed position is. Right now our state supreme court is pretty diverse which is a saving grace for our state. We can not allow this bill to pass.

Thank you for doing what is right for Kansas and upholding bipartisan appointments to the Kansas Supreme Court.

Glenna Walker

Private citizen

SCR 1611

Opponent

Written only

3/12/2025

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for taking time to read my testimony in opposition of SCR 1611. My name is Glenna Walker and I am a voter in Dodge City, KS.

I am very concerned that SCR 1611 would fundamentally change the constitution of Kansas by changing the merit based system of selecting Supreme Court Justices to partisan elections. Our current system has stood the test of time and allowed Judges and Justices to rule based on law. Partisan elections would create a morass of conflict of interest which threaten the both appearance and the reality of fair decision making. It will allow outside influences to "buy" a justice. In the recent Supreme Court election in Wisconsin over fifty-one million dollars were spent and over half of that amount came from out of state. Our government was created to have a separation of power of the three branches and for the judicial branch to be non-partisan and rule based on law not party allegiance.

Thank you for considering my testimony and I encourage you to vote no on SCR 1611.

Jordan Walker

Private Citizen

SCR 1611

Opponent

Written Only

3/11/0025

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SCR 1611 with you today. My name is Jordan Walker and I am a voter in Wichita, Kansas. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SCR 1611

I oppose this bill because politicizing the Supreme Court is antithetical to the United States constitution where these members are to be an impartial branch of the government. We already have major PAC dollars from out of state coming into our elections and contributing to the lack of trust we have in our state electeds on all levels - why would we trust that judges would be elected by an informed body when bold lies and advertising tactics are used so frequently in our elections?

Further, we are literally talking about needing to cut funding and funding efficiencies within our state funding, yet while we're trying to push through policies that make it more difficult for people to vote, we want to increase our elections funding to sway our highest state court? I do not believe this legislative body has the best interests in mind for Kansans, because if you did, this bill would coincide with fewer restrictions in our election process and policies that limit campaign spending in local elections.

Until this body can gain our trust in their own election processes, I can't agree with this decision and cannot find any benefits to Kansans in pursuing it further.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SCR 1611. Thank you.

Kelly Wall

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SCR 1611

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY

3/12/2025

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for considering my comments on SCR 1611 today.

My name is Kelly Wall and I am a voter in Douglas County/ Lawrence, Kansas. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SCR 1611.

We have seen the impact on increased money being spent to influence elections. To create the opportunity for judges to run election campaigns vs. being appointed to our courts would undoubtedly change the dynamics and characteristics of judges serving in our state. The need for increasing amounts of money for campaigns would throw advantage to those of better means and reduce the reliance on reputation and honorable service.

Please vote no and keep undue monetary influence out of our court system.

Thank you for your time.

I encourage all of you to vote NO on SCR 1611.

Sarah Wallbaum

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SCR 1611

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY

3/12/2025

Chair Humphries and members of the committee, thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on SCR 1611 with you today. My name is Sarah Wallbaum, and I am a voter in Johnson County, Mission. I'm writing you today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SCR 1611.

I value civil rights in our state and don't want the Koch Bros and Americans for Prosperity or any other interested group hand picking our state Supreme Court justices.

Thank you for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you to vote know on the passage of SCR 1611. Thank you.

Amy Warkentin

Private Citizen

SCR 1611

Opponent

Written Only

3/12/2025

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SCR 1611 with you today. My name is Amy Warkentin and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SCR 1611.

I oppose this bill based on the long standing that a fair and independent judiciary is essential to democracy and to the long held belief that the United States has one of the best judiciaries in the world. Political realignment will occur and eventually conservative jurists will make their way to the bench. But putting this into law will only make it more difficult for justices to do the job they were put there to do. I want judges who know the law and are the most qualified for the job not who can win the most votes or raise the most money.

I thank you all for reading my thoughts on this bill and I hope you all vote no on SCR 1611.
Thank you.

Paula Warren

Private Citizen

SCR 1611

Opponent

Written only

3/13/2025

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee. Thank you for considering my beliefs regarding SCR 1611 today. My name is Paula Warren a voter in Douglas County/Lawrence.

I am firmly requesting a NO vote on SCR 1611. Our Kansas system for choosing Supreme Court justices by their peers educated in the laws of our constitution has been successful. The SCJ do not have pressure placed on them by electorates from party lines.

As a 5th generation farm family of Kansas, I am firmly requesting a NO vote on SCR 1611. Our Kansas system for choosing Supreme Court Justices by their peers educated in the laws of our constitution is fair and successful. As supreme court justices, their oath is to rule based on freedoms as stated in our constitution.

Party alliances and money to promote and dissuade placement in the Supreme Court, has no place in making decisions in the interpretation of constitutional rule of law.

Thank you for the opportunity to have my voice heard regarding this very important decision.
VOTE NO SCR 1611.

Summer Wendt

Private citizen

SCR 16qq

Opponent

Written Only

3/12/2025

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SCR 1611 with you today. My name is Summer Wendt and I am a voter in Leavenworth County KS. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SCR 1611"

The people of Kansas do not want this change nor have we be given opportunity to vote on this. There have been no town halls with the people and please remember that us who you work for and listen to our voices.

Thank you.

Gretchen West

Private Person

SCR 1611

Opponent

Written Only

3/12/2025

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, I want to thank you for allowing me to express my thoughts on SCR 1611 today. My name is Gretchen West and I am a voter in Johnson County, living in Overland Park. I am writing to ask you to vote no on SCR 1611.

Today especially, there is no place for politics in the courts. Justices and Judges must be free to rule based on the law, not influenced by the political arena. In Kansas, the Nominating Commission prevents shadow organizations from buying a seat on the Supreme Court. This process has stood the test of time while ensuring that we have qualified nominees for the court. In a recent Supreme Court election in Wisconsin, over \$51 million was spent and over half of that came from outside the state.

According to the Brennan Center for Justice nominating commissions are widely used in other states and the Center recommended that states do away with state supreme court elections completely. Justices should be appointed through a publicly accountable process conducted by an independent nominating commission.

Please vote NO on SCR 1611 in order to protect, among other things, reproductive rights, public education funding and voting rights by keeping politics out of our process of selecting Supreme Court judges.

Again, thank you for your time and for hearing my thoughts on this bill. I encourage you all to vote no on the passage of SCR 1611.

Lanetra Wetzel

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SCR 1611

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY

3/12/2025

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SCR 1611 with you today. My name is Lanetra Wetzel and I am a voter in Olathe, KS Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SCR 1611

I think that this bill is unfair and goes against the constitution. I also would not like organizations or billionaires to take part in buying our court system.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SCR 1611. Thank you.

John Whitaker

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SCR 1611

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY

3/12/2025

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SCR 1611 with you today. My name is John Whitaker and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SCR 1611.

Political campaigning is divisive and damaging. It is easily influenced by wealthy, partisan interests from outside our state. I personally don't want external forces exerting control over Kansas citizens. The current system of appointing Supreme Court justices is fair and untarnished by outsiders. Let's keep it that way.

Thank you again for hearing my thoughts. Please vote NO on SCR 1611 and keep Kansas free. Thank you.

Cassie White

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SCR 1611

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY

3/12/2025

Hello Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee. My name is Cassie White and I am a voter in Overland Park. I am writing this testimony today to urge the committee to vote NO on SCR 1611.

While doing research on the subject this statement jumped out to me as being the overall factor of why I oppose this bill. It reads "The whole idea of having courts is that they're supposed to present a neutral third party that can resolve disputes between the affected parties. People aren't always happy with the outcome but if they believe the process is fair, they're willing to abide by the rulings." I couldn't agree with this more and feel that if judges are being elected like politicians we're going to begin seeing more bias in our courts and that's not the place for it. I approve of our current system where there is a merits based nominating committee that puts forth good candidates to sit on our Kansas courts. Please do not dismantle this current politically impartial system. I do not wish to see judges running for elections, wasting time and money on campaigns. This is not money well spent and it's time wasted.

Once again, thank you for listening and I encourage you all to please vote NO on SCR 1611. Thank you.

Quinn White

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SCR 1611

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY

3/12/2025

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on SCR 1611 with you today. My name is Quinn White and I am a voter in Shawnee. I am writing today to advise the committee to vote NO on SCR 1611

We must protect against politicizing the courts. Justices have a constitutional obligation to consider cases in the interest of all Kansans who appear before them. They must have greater protections from improper influence than any other constitutional officers.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SCR 1611. Thank you.

Byron Whitted

Private citizen

SCR 1611

Opponent

Written only

3/13/2025

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SCR 1611 with you today. My name is Byron Whitted and I am a voter in Johnson County, Shawnee. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SCR 611

I don't think this is the bill for Kansas. Multiple times the Kansas court has enforced the need for education spending and found our government lacking in its promises of funding public schools. This is because of our current election process. Should we change, judges will be more swayed by what best gets them votes and hot topic issues that do not improve our state.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SCR 1611. Thank you.

Sierra Whitted

Private Citizen

SCR 1611

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY

3/13/2025

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for reading my thoughts on SCR 1611 with you today. My name is Sierra Whitted and I am a voter in Johnson County/Shawnee. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SCR 1611.

This bill could introduce impartiality into our judicial system. We have a good system now that prevents judges from being beholden to a donor or party. I want the Supreme Court to remain focused on the law and act as a true check and balance while protecting all Kansans, not just those of a single party or interest.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SCR 1611. Thank you.

Betsy Wickstrom

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SCR 1611

OPPONENT

Written only

3/12/2025

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SCR 1611 with you today. My name is Dr Betsy Wickstrom,

a voter in Prairie Village (Johnson County) Kansas. I am writing today to ask the committee to vote NO on SCR 1611"

Our state Supreme Court is currently selected by a merit-based system, a best practice which assures impartiality and fairness in interpretation of our laws on behalf of EVERY Kansan. To convert that process to a partisan election invites corruption and partisan bias. This would risk curtailment our civil rights based on the religious viewpoint of a narrow, wealthy group of internal and external political investors, who have the financial clout to sway such an election. Simply put, this proposal is WRONG for Kansas, our beloved Free State, and must not be enacted.

Again, thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony. Please protect our civil rights and vote NO on SCR 1611.

Allison Williams

Private Citizen

SCR 1611

Opponent

Written only

3/13/2025

My name is Allison Williams from Leawood 66209. I am writing to express my concern regarding the growing influence of politics in the judicial system, particularly in our state's Supreme Court. The Court has a constitutional obligation to consider cases with fairness, impartiality, and in the best interest of all Kansans who appear before them. It is crucial that the Court's decisions are based on the law and the facts of each case, not on political pressures or external influences.

As a representative of the people of Kansas, I urge you to support efforts that ensure our judiciary remains independent and free from political interference. The Kansas Supreme Court's duty is to serve all Kansans equally and fairly, and political influence threatens the impartiality of their decisions. We need to ensure that our courts uphold justice without being swayed by partisan concerns, so that every individual who comes before the Court can trust that they will receive a fair and unbiased ruling.

It is essential for the health of our democracy that the judicial branch remains a nonpartisan, independent entity, focused on interpreting and applying the law rather than reflecting the interests of any particular political group. I ask that you stand firm in advocating for the preservation of judicial independence, ensuring that all Kansans can rely on the Court to act impartially in the pursuit of justice.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and again I urge you to vote NO on SCR 1611. I appreciate your service and your commitment to protecting the rights of all Kansans.

El Williams

Private citizen of Kansas

There is no need to change the current selection of supreme Court justice

Let's keep politics out of the Supreme Court

There is no reason to change the current selection of Supreme Court justices

3/12/2025

Thank you! El Williams, Johnson County

The present system works quite well, and helps to keep politics out of the supreme court system.

Once again, thank you!

Mary Wise

Private Citizen

SCR 1611

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY

3/12/2025

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SCR 1611 with you today. My name is Mary Wise and I am a voter in Johnson County, and live in Lake Quivira. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SCR 1611.

The current system in Kansas for selecting Supreme Court Justices is designed to elevate qualified persons of integrity. These people are focused on the impartial treatment of all Kansans. Because of our current method of selecting justices, they have protected basic human rights like voting and reproductive freedom, and the funding of public schools.

My husband and I raised two children in Johnson County, both of who attended public schools. Our son, Ben, has Down syndrome. Because public schools were well supported in the 80s and 90s, Ben had an outstanding education, which prepared him to go to small, accessible junior college. He attained a certificate in Food Service, and he has worked part time for the last 20 years. You might have seen him at Applebee's where he was a greeter and a host for 18 years of that time.

If we introduce politics into our system for selecting justices, we will end up like Wisconsin. In a recent race there, \$51 million dollars were spent, half of which came from out of the state. This borders on the obscene.

Please stop, for a moment, and think of what Kansas would be with politics in our courts: A state where it's easy to discriminate on the issues of voting rights,, women's rights, and the right for children with special needs to attend school. Would our state, then, be a place you would be proud of, a place where you wanted to have your children and grandchildren reside?

This issue is more than a matter of a temporary win. It's a matter of integrity, of doing the right thing, of doing something for everyone in the state, not just for the privileged.

Mary Wise

Kansas Citizen

Lake Quivira

Thank you, again, for hearing my story and my thoughts on this important matter with far reaching consequences.

I urge you to vote NO on SCR 1611.

March 13, 2025

Testimony to the House Judiciary Committee

NAME: Erin Woods

TITLE: private citizen

EMAIL ADDRESS: ewoods999@gmail.com

SCR 1611 Written Only Opponent Testimony

Chair Humphries & members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my opposition to SCR 1611.

Changing the current merit system for selecting Supreme Court justices to a partisan election system could erode public trust in the fairness of our judicial system.

In states where partisan elections are held, candidates often rely on political party endorsements or align themselves with specific ideologies, which can influence their decision-making on the bench. This politicization undermines the judiciary's fundamental role as an independent check on the executive and legislative branches. Justices, rather than ruling based on the law and facts, may feel compelled to consider their political standing or the preferences of their party when making critical decisions.

The massive financial influence exerted in recent state Supreme Court elections exacerbates these problems. My daughter currently resides in Wisconsin. I saw first-hand what electing Supreme Court justices looks like during the 2023 Wisconsin Supreme Court race where there were constant attack ads on TV and on social media. It felt like a presidential race. It turns out, that 2023 Wisconsin Supreme Court race was the most expensive in history, with over \$45 million spent on the election, much of it from special interest groups. This year they have another Supreme Court race on the ballot and a group backed by Elon Musk is pouring money into ads on behalf of a candidate.

The current merit system in Kansas ensures justices are highly qualified but also minimizes political influence, allowing the judiciary to remain independent and focused on the law rather than political considerations or election outcomes. By removing politics from the selection process, Kansas has built a system that upholds the integrity of its judicial branch. Even the Brennan Center for Justice, after their three-year study, recommends states eliminate state Supreme Court elections and replace them with an independent, accountable nominating process to safeguard judicial independence.

Please protect the separation of powers and impartial judicial system in Kansas by voting no on SCR 1611.

Thank you,

Erin Woods
Leawood, KS

CASSIE WOOLWORTH

Private Citizen

SCR 1611

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY

3/13/2025

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SCR 1611 with you today. My name is Cassie Woolworth and I am a voter in Johnson County, Olathe, Kansas. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SCR 1611

There is no reason to set up Partisan Elections for Judges Unless you are planning on funding one side against the other within our JUSTICE system and Justice should NEVER BE PARTISAN.

Read that again - Justice should NEVER BE PARTISAN.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SCR 1611. Thank you.

KAREN WYCIF

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SCR 1611

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY

3/13/2025

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SCR 1611. My name is Karen Wycoff and I am a voter in Douglas County in the city of Baldwin. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SCR 1611.

The current process of having a bipartisan committee that examines the qualifications of candidates and then forwards the very best to the governor is one that works well and is the best way to represent all the constituents of our state. This also allows the judges to focus the time on their job, not on spending unnecessary time on campaigning, which does not serve the needs of our state.

Thank you all for hearing my thoughts, and again I encourage you all to vote no on SCR 1611. Thank you.

Janie Young

Private Citizen

SCR 1611

OPPONENT

Written Only

3/13/2025

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SCR 1611 with you today. My name is Janie Young and I am a voter in Johnson County/ Overland Park. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SCR 1611"

I oppose to this bill because we need separation from our government and the judiciary branch. Our founding fathers set up our government as a democracy. Electing judges through political party elections goes against our constitution.

Thank you for hearing my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SCR 1611.

Julia Young

Private Citizen

SCR 1611

Opponent

Written Only

3/12/2025

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts with you on SCR 1611. My name is Julia Young, and I am a voter in Overland Park, Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SCR 1611.

The Kansas Supreme Court must consider cases based on the interests of all Kansans, avoiding political influences. Keeping politics out of our courts is essential.

The Supreme Court Nominating Commission protects judicial independence and maintains the separation of powers, effectively keeping politics away from the Supreme Court.

Election of judges has proven ineffective in other states. For example, a recent Supreme Court election in Wisconsin saw over \$51 million spent, with more than half from outside sources. Such external monetary influence should not be permitted.

Thank you again for considering my opinion. I encourage all of you to vote NO on SCR 1611. Thank you.

Julia Young