



Kansas PTA
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March 13, 2025

**Written-Only Testimony to House Committee on Judiciary
Honorable Chair, Representative Susan Humphries**

Lynette Hosek, Committee Assistant
785-296-5805, H.Judiciary@house.ks.gov
Room 519-N, State Capitol Building

Opponent [SCR 1611](#) – Proposing a constitutional amendment to provide for direct election of supreme court justices and abolish the supreme court nominating commission.
Hearing: Thursday, March 13, 2025, 3:30 am Room 582-N

Honorable Chair Humphries and Committee Members,

Please accept this written testimony in strong opposition to SCR 1611. This bill is in opposition to the [Kansas PTA Legislative Platform](#) and our priority to uphold the Kansas Constitution.

KS PTA Priority – **Kansas Constitution**. Kansas PTA supports efforts to preserve the Kansas Constitution. This includes Article VI, regarding public education, to protect non-partisan elections of local school board members and their local control, to retain legislators’ obligation to provide suitable finance for ongoing educational improvement, as well as State Board of Education oversight of state education standards and accreditations.

Uphold the Current Non-Partisan Merit-Based Selection Process

The Kansas PTA supports the current non-partisan merit selection process for our supreme court justices. The state’s current judicial selection process is the most comprehensive and exhaustive method available for determining the qualifications of judicial applicants for the Kansas Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. Any qualified attorney may apply for an open position, first by completing a 20 plus page application. Every applicant’s credentials and experience are scrutinized by a panel of peers. Those applicants who are best qualified are further screened through extensive interviews. The panel then recommends a slate of top candidates from which the Governor may select a new judicial appointee. Every justice is subject to a performance review through retention election by the public.

- **Non-Partisan Nominating Commission**. Multiple bills address alternative composition of the nominating commission. The Constitution specifies: one member, who shall be chairman, chosen from among their number by the members of the bar who are

residents of and licensed in Kansas; one member from each congressional district chosen from among their number by the resident members of the bar in each such district; and one member, who is not a lawyer, from each congressional district, appointed by the governor from among the residents of each such district.

We oppose a direct, partisan election process. The Kansas Supreme Court must remain impartial. This proposed constitutional change would drowned out the voices of the people to the millionaires and billionaires funding the elections. Thank you for this opportunity and your consideration of our testimony.

Denise Sultz
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THE PTA POSITION

Kansas PTA is a nonpartisan association that promotes the welfare of children and youth. The PTA does not endorse any candidate or political party. Rather, we advocate for policies and legislation that affect Kansas youth in alignment with our legislative platform and priorities. [PTA mission and purpose](#) have remained the same since our inception over 100 years ago, focused on facilitating every child's potential and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.