

## SCR1611 Proponent Written Only Testimony

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for bringing this resolution for a hearing. This is something I have been watching for, and while options have been presented in past sessions, they have gone nowhere. It is past time for Kansans to have a say in how their Supreme Court justices are chosen.

For too long, our Supreme Court has functioned without direct accountability to the people. The current system, controlled by an unelected commission dominated by attorneys, removes Kansans from the process and limits the governor's choices. This is not how a representative government should function.

The court's history of overreach underscores the need for reform. In education funding cases, justices dictated spending levels, taking budget authority away from the legislature. In election law cases, they struck down safeguards meant to protect the integrity of our voting process. These decisions were made by justices who do not answer to voters.

SCR1611 corrects this by allowing Kansans to elect justices, just as they elect other officials responsible for making and upholding laws. This change brings much-needed transparency to the process, ensuring justices are selected based on their judicial philosophy and commitment to the Constitution, rather than by a small group of legal professionals.

Many states successfully elect their Supreme Court justices, proving that judicial elections can work while maintaining the integrity of the courts. By passing SCR1611, Kansas would align itself with democratic principles and ensure that those interpreting our laws are accountable to the people they serve.

I urge this committee to support SCR1611 and give Kansans a voice in shaping their judiciary.

Respectfully submitted,

Kari Sue  
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Sedgwick County Precinct Committeewoman