

**PETITION TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE MASSACHUSETTS CONSTITUTION**

To the House of Representatives and Senate:

The taxpayers who have affixed their signatures below are, by that action, calling on the Massachusetts Legislature to approve an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts concerning the tenure of judges provided in Part 2, Chapter 3, Article I of the Massachusetts Constitution, such amendment to contain the following provisions:

Pt. 2, c. 3, Article I of the Constitution be hereby amended as follows:

Article I The tenure that all commissioned officers shall by law have in their office, shall be expressed in their respective commissions. All judicial officers, duly appointed, commissioned and sworn, shall hold their offices for a period of six years. After the expiration of the initial six year term, the judicial officer, if he or she so chooses, shall have his or her name placed upon the ballot for a vote of affirmation. If the judicial officer chooses not to place his/her name upon the ballot his/her term shall immediately end and he or she can not be considered for appointment to any judicial position. If the judicial officer's name is placed upon the ballot and receives a majority vote of all votes cast he or she shall be reappointed for an additional six year period. If the judicial officer fails to receive a majority vote he or she shall not be eligible for reappointment to any judicial position. Should the judicial officer receive a vote of affirmation he or she will be eligible for a reappointment in like manner every six years thereafter. Provided however, the Governor with the consent of the council may, remove the judicial officer upon the address of both houses of the legislature and provided also, that the Governor, with the consent of the Council, may after due notice and hearing retire them because of advanced age or mental or physical disability; and provided further, that upon attaining seventy years of age said judges shall be retired. Such retirement shall be subject to any provisions made by law as to pensions or allowances payable to such officers upon their voluntary retirement.

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