

As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

S. B. No. 471

Senators DeMora, Craig

Cosponsors: Senators Liston, Smith, Brenner

To amend section 2301.02 of the Revised Code to add 1
two judges to the Franklin County Court of 2
Common Pleas to be elected in 2028. 3

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 2301.02 of the Revised Code be 4
amended to read as follows: 5

Sec. 2301.02. The number of judges of the court of common 6
pleas for each county, the time for the next election of the 7
judges in the several counties, and the beginning of their terms 8
shall be as follows: 9

(A) In Ashland, Fayette, and Pike counties, one judge, 10
elected in 1956, term to begin February 9, 1957; 11

In Brown, Crawford, Defiance, Highland, Holmes, Morgan, 12
Ottawa, and Union counties, one judge, to be elected in 1954, 13
term to begin February 9, 1955; 14

In Auglaize county, one judge, to be elected in 1956, term 15
to begin January 9, 1957; 16

In Coshocton, Darke, Fulton, Gallia, Guernsey, Jackson, 17
Knox, Madison, Mercer, Monroe, Paulding, Vinton, and Wyandot 18

counties, one judge, to be elected in 1956, term to begin 19
January 1, 1957; 20

In Morrow county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, 21
term to begin January 1, 1957, and one to be elected in 2006, 22
term to begin January 1, 2007; 23

In Logan county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, 24
term to begin January 1, 1957, and one to be elected in 2004, 25
term to begin January 2, 2005; 26

In Carroll, Clinton, Hocking, Meigs, Pickaway, Preble, 27
Shelby, Van Wert, and Williams counties, one judge, to be 28
elected in 1952, term to begin January 1, 1953; 29

In Champaign county, two judges, one to be elected in 30
1952, term to begin January 1, 1953, and one to be elected in 31
2008, term to begin February 10, 2009; 32

In Harrison and Noble counties, one judge, to be elected 33
in 1954, term to begin April 18, 1955; 34

In Henry county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, 35
term to begin May 9, 1957, and one to be elected in 2004, term 36
to begin January 1, 2005; 37

In Putnam county, one judge, to be elected in 1956, term 38
to begin May 9, 1957; 39

In Huron county, one judge, to be elected in 1952, term to 40
begin May 14, 1953; 41

In Perry county, one judge, to be elected in 1954, term to 42
begin July 6, 1956; 43

In Sandusky county, two judges, one to be elected in 1954, 44
term to begin February 10, 1955, and one to be elected in 1978, 45

term to begin January 1, 1979; 46

In Hardin County, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, 47
term to begin January 1, 1957, and one to be elected in 2026, 48
term to begin February 9, 2027; 49

In Adams county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, 50
term to begin February 9, 1957, and one to be elected in 2026, 51
term to begin February 9, 2027. 52

(B) In Allen county, three judges, one to be elected in 53
1956, term to begin February 9, 1957, the second to be elected 54
in 1958, term to begin January 1, 1959, and the third to be 55
elected in 1992, term to begin January 1, 1993; 56

In Ashtabula county, three judges, one to be elected in 57
1954, term to begin February 9, 1955, one to be elected in 1960, 58
term to begin January 1, 1961, and one to be elected in 1978, 59
term to begin January 2, 1979; 60

In Athens county, two judges, one to be elected in 1954, 61
term to begin February 9, 1955, and one to be elected in 1990, 62
term to begin July 1, 1991; 63

In Erie county, four judges, one to be elected in 1956, 64
term to begin January 1, 1957, the second to be elected in 1970, 65
term to begin January 2, 1971, the third to be elected in 2004, 66
term to begin January 2, 2005, and the fourth to be elected in 67
2008, term to begin February 9, 2009; 68

In Fairfield county, three judges, one to be elected in 69
1954, term to begin February 9, 1955, the second to be elected 70
in 1970, term to begin January 1, 1971, and the third to be 71
elected in 1994, term to begin January 2, 1995; 72

In Geauga county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, 73

term to begin January 1, 1957, and the second to be elected in 74
1976, term to begin January 6, 1977; 75

In Greene county, four judges, one to be elected in 1956, 76
term to begin February 9, 1957, the second to be elected in 77
1960, term to begin January 1, 1961, the third to be elected in 78
1978, term to begin January 2, 1979, and the fourth to be 79
elected in 1994, term to begin January 1, 1995; 80

In Hancock county, two judges, one to be elected in 1952, 81
term to begin January 1, 1953, and the second to be elected in 82
1978, term to begin January 1, 1979; 83

In Lawrence county, two judges, one to be elected in 1954, 84
term to begin February 9, 1955, and the second to be elected in 85
1976, term to begin January 1, 1977; 86

In Marion county, three judges, one to be elected in 1952, 87
term to begin January 1, 1953, the second to be elected in 1976, 88
term to begin January 2, 1977, and the third to be elected in 89
1998, term to begin February 9, 1999; 90

In Medina county, three judges, one to be elected in 1956, 91
term to begin January 1, 1957, the second to be elected in 1966, 92
term to begin January 1, 1967, and the third to be elected in 93
1994, term to begin January 1, 1995; 94

In Miami county, two judges, one to be elected in 1954, 95
term to begin February 9, 1955, and one to be elected in 1970, 96
term to begin on January 1, 1971; 97

In Muskingum county, three judges, one to be elected in 98
1968, term to begin August 9, 1969, one to be elected in 1978, 99
term to begin January 1, 1979, and one to be elected in 2002, 100
term to begin January 2, 2003; 101

In Portage county, three judges, one to be elected in 102
1956, term to begin January 1, 1957, the second to be elected in 103
1960, term to begin January 1, 1961, and the third to be elected 104
in 1986, term to begin January 2, 1987; 105

In Ross county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, 106
term to begin February 9, 1957, and the second to be elected in 107
1976, term to begin January 1, 1977; 108

In Scioto county, three judges, one to be elected in 1954, 109
term to begin February 10, 1955, the second to be elected in 110
1960, term to begin January 1, 1961, and the third to be elected 111
in 1994, term to begin January 2, 1995; 112

In Seneca county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, 113
term to begin January 1, 1957, and the second to be elected in 114
1986, term to begin January 2, 1987; 115

In Warren county, four judges, one to be elected in 1954, 116
term to begin February 9, 1955, the second to be elected in 117
1970, term to begin January 1, 1971, the third to be elected in 118
1986, term to begin January 1, 1987, and the fourth to be 119
elected in 2004, term to begin January 2, 2005; 120

In Washington county, two judges, one to be elected in 121
1952, term to begin January 1, 1953, and one to be elected in 122
1986, term to begin January 1, 1987; 123

In Wood county, three judges, one to be elected in 1968, 124
term beginning January 1, 1969, the second to be elected in 125
1970, term to begin January 2, 1971, and the third to be elected 126
in 1990, term to begin January 1, 1991; 127

In Belmont and Jefferson counties, two judges, to be 128
elected in 1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, and February 9, 129
1955, respectively; 130

In Clark county, four judges, one to be elected in 1952, 131
term to begin January 1, 1953, the second to be elected in 1956, 132
term to begin January 2, 1957, the third to be elected in 1986, 133
term to begin January 3, 1987, and the fourth to be elected in 134
1994, term to begin January 2, 1995; 135

In Clermont county, five judges, one to be elected in 136
1956, term to begin January 1, 1957, the second to be elected in 137
1964, term to begin January 1, 1965, the third to be elected in 138
1982, term to begin January 2, 1983, the fourth to be elected in 139
1986, term to begin January 2, 1987, and the fifth to be elected 140
in 2006, term to begin January 3, 2007; 141

In Columbiana county, two judges, one to be elected in 142
1952, term to begin January 1, 1953, and the second to be 143
elected in 1956, term to begin January 1, 1957; 144

In Delaware county, three judges, one to be elected in 145
1990, term to begin February 9, 1991, the second to be elected 146
in 1994, term to begin January 1, 1995, and the third to be 147
elected in 2016, term to begin January 1, 2017; 148

In Lake county, six judges, one to be elected in 1958, 149
term to begin January 1, 1959, the second to be elected in 1960, 150
term to begin January 2, 1961, the third to be elected in 1964, 151
term to begin January 3, 1965, the fourth and fifth to be 152
elected in 1978, terms to begin January 4, 1979, and January 5, 153
1979, respectively, and the sixth to be elected in 2000, term to 154
begin January 6, 2001; 155

In Licking county, four judges, one to be elected in 1954, 156
term to begin February 9, 1955, one to be elected in 1964, term 157
to begin January 1, 1965, one to be elected in 1990, term to 158
begin January 1, 1991, and one to be elected in 2004, term to 159

begin January 1, 2005; 160

In Lorain county, nine judges, two to be elected in 1952, 161
terms to begin January 1, 1953, and January 2, 1953, 162
respectively, one to be elected in 1958, term to begin January 163
3, 1959, one to be elected in 1968, term to begin January 1, 164
1969, two to be elected in 1988, terms to begin January 4, 1989, 165
and January 5, 1989, respectively, two to be elected in 1998, 166
terms to begin January 2, 1999, and January 3, 1999, 167
respectively; and one to be elected in 2006, term to begin 168
January 6, 2007; 169

In Butler county, eleven judges, one to be elected in 170
1956, term to begin January 1, 1957; two to be elected in 1954, 171
terms to begin January 1, 1955, and February 9, 1955, 172
respectively; one to be elected in 1968, term to begin January 173
2, 1969; one to be elected in 1986, term to begin January 3, 174
1987; two to be elected in 1988, terms to begin January 1, 1989, 175
and January 2, 1989, respectively; one to be elected in 1992, 176
term to begin January 4, 1993; two to be elected in 2002, terms 177
to begin January 2, 2003, and January 3, 2003, respectively; and 178
one to be elected in 2006, term to begin January 3, 2007; 179

In Richland county, four judges, one to be elected in 180
1956, term to begin January 1, 1957, the second to be elected in 181
1960, term to begin February 9, 1961, the third to be elected in 182
1968, term to begin January 2, 1969, and the fourth to be 183
elected in 2004, term to begin January 3, 2005; 184

In Tuscarawas county, two judges, one to be elected in 185
1956, term to begin January 1, 1957, and the second to be 186
elected in 1960, term to begin January 2, 1961; 187

In Wayne county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, 188

term beginning January 1, 1957, and one to be elected in 1968, 189
term to begin January 2, 1969; 190

In Trumbull county, six judges, one to be elected in 1952, 191
term to begin January 1, 1953, the second to be elected in 1954, 192
term to begin January 1, 1955, the third to be elected in 1956, 193
term to begin January 1, 1957, the fourth to be elected in 1964, 194
term to begin January 1, 1965, the fifth to be elected in 1976, 195
term to begin January 2, 1977, and the sixth to be elected in 196
1994, term to begin January 3, 1995; 197

(C) In Cuyahoga county, thirty-nine judges; eight to be 198
elected in 1954, terms to begin on successive days beginning 199
from January 1, 1955, to January 7, 1955, and February 9, 1955, 200
respectively; eight to be elected in 1956, terms to begin on 201
successive days beginning from January 1, 1957, to January 8, 202
1957; three to be elected in 1952, terms to begin from January 203
1, 1953, to January 3, 1953; two to be elected in 1960, terms to 204
begin on January 8, 1961, and January 9, 1961, respectively; two 205
to be elected in 1964, terms to begin January 4, 1965, and 206
January 5, 1965, respectively; one to be elected in 1966, term 207
to begin on January 10, 1967; four to be elected in 1968, terms 208
to begin on successive days beginning from January 9, 1969, to 209
January 12, 1969; two to be elected in 1974, terms to begin on 210
January 18, 1975, and January 19, 1975, respectively; five to be 211
elected in 1976, terms to begin on successive days beginning 212
January 6, 1977, to January 10, 1977; two to be elected in 1982, 213
terms to begin January 11, 1983, and January 12, 1983, 214
respectively; and two to be elected in 1986, terms to begin 215
January 13, 1987, and January 14, 1987, respectively; 216

In Franklin county, ~~twenty-four~~ twenty-six judges; two to 217
be elected in 1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, and February 218

9, 1955, respectively; four to be elected in 1956, terms to 219
begin January 1, 1957, to January 4, 1957; four to be elected in 220
1958, terms to begin January 1, 1959, to January 4, 1959; three 221
to be elected in 1968, terms to begin January 5, 1969, to 222
January 7, 1969; three to be elected in 1976, terms to begin on 223
successive days beginning January 5, 1977, to January 7, 1977; 224
one to be elected in 1982, term to begin January 8, 1983; one to 225
be elected in 1986, term to begin January 9, 1987; two to be 226
elected in 1990, terms to begin July 1, 1991, and July 2, 1991, 227
respectively; one to be elected in 1996, term to begin January 228
2, 1997; one to be elected in 2004, term to begin July 1, 2005; 229
one to be elected in 2018, term to begin January 9, 2019; ~~and~~ 230
one to be elected in 2020, term to begin January 3, 2021; and 231
two to be elected in 2028, terms to begin February 1, 2029, and 232
February 5, 2029, respectively; 233

In Hamilton county, twenty-one judges; eight to be elected 234
in 1966, terms to begin January 1, 1967, January 2, 1967, and 235
from February 9, 1967, to February 14, 1967, respectively; five 236
to be elected in 1956, terms to begin from January 1, 1957, to 237
January 5, 1957; one to be elected in 1964, term to begin 238
January 1, 1965; one to be elected in 1974, term to begin 239
January 15, 1975; one to be elected in 1980, term to begin 240
January 16, 1981; two to be elected at large in the general 241
election in 1982, terms to begin April 1, 1983; one to be 242
elected in 1990, term to begin July 1, 1991; and two to be 243
elected in 1996, terms to begin January 3, 1997, and January 4, 244
1997, respectively; 245

In Lucas county, fourteen judges; two to be elected in 246
1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, and February 9, 1955, 247
respectively; two to be elected in 1956, terms to begin January 248
1, 1957, and October 29, 1957, respectively; two to be elected 249

in 1952, terms to begin January 1, 1953, and January 2, 1953, 250
respectively; one to be elected in 1964, term to begin January 251
3, 1965; one to be elected in 1968, term to begin January 4, 252
1969; two to be elected in 1976, terms to begin January 4, 1977, 253
and January 5, 1977, respectively; one to be elected in 1982, 254
term to begin January 6, 1983; one to be elected in 1988, term 255
to begin January 7, 1989; one to be elected in 1990, term to 256
begin January 2, 1991; and one to be elected in 1992, term to 257
begin January 2, 1993; 258

In Mahoning county, seven judges; three to be elected in 259
1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, January 2, 1955, and 260
February 9, 1955, respectively; one to be elected in 1956, term 261
to begin January 1, 1957; one to be elected in 1952, term to 262
begin January 1, 1953; one to be elected in 1968, term to begin 263
January 2, 1969; and one to be elected in 1990, term to begin 264
July 1, 1991; 265

In Montgomery county, fifteen judges; three to be elected 266
in 1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, January 2, 1955, and 267
January 3, 1955, respectively; four to be elected in 1952, terms 268
to begin January 1, 1953, January 2, 1953, July 1, 1953, and 269
July 2, 1953, respectively; one to be elected in 1964, term to 270
begin January 3, 1965; one to be elected in 1968, term to begin 271
January 3, 1969; three to be elected in 1976, terms to begin on 272
successive days beginning January 4, 1977, to January 6, 1977; 273
two to be elected in 1990, terms to begin July 1, 1991, and July 274
2, 1991, respectively; and one to be elected in 1992, term to 275
begin January 1, 1993; 276

In Stark county, eight judges; one to be elected in 1958, 277
term to begin on January 2, 1959; two to be elected in 1954, 278
terms to begin on January 1, 1955, and February 9, 1955, 279

respectively; two to be elected in 1952, terms to begin January 280
1, 1953, and April 16, 1953, respectively; one to be elected in 281
1966, term to begin on January 4, 1967; and two to be elected in 282
1992, terms to begin January 1, 1993, and January 2, 1993, 283
respectively; 284

In Summit county, thirteen judges; four to be elected in 285
1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, January 2, 1955, January 286
3, 1955, and February 9, 1955, respectively; three to be elected 287
in 1958, terms to begin January 1, 1959, January 2, 1959, and 288
May 17, 1959, respectively; one to be elected in 1966, term to 289
begin January 4, 1967; one to be elected in 1968, term to begin 290
January 5, 1969; one to be elected in 1990, term to begin May 1, 291
1991; one to be elected in 1992, term to begin January 6, 1993; 292
and two to be elected in 2008, terms to begin January 5, 2009, 293
and January 6, 2009, respectively. 294

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, in any county 295
having two or more judges of the court of common pleas, in which 296
more than one-third of the judges plus one were previously 297
elected at the same election, if the office of one of those 298
judges so elected becomes vacant more than forty days prior to 299
the second general election preceding the expiration of that 300
judge's term, the office that that judge had filled shall be 301
abolished as of the date of the next general election, and a new 302
office of judge of the court of common pleas shall be created. 303
The judge who is to fill that new office shall be elected for a 304
six-year term at the next general election, and the term of that 305
judge shall commence on the first day of the year following that 306
general election, on which day no other judge's term begins, so 307
that the number of judges that the county shall elect shall not 308
be reduced. 309

Judges of the probate division of the court of common 310
pleas are judges of the court of common pleas but shall be 311
elected pursuant to sections 2101.02 and 2101.021 of the Revised 312
Code, except in Harrison, Henry, Morgan, Noble, and Wyandot 313
counties in which the judge of the court of common pleas elected 314
pursuant to this section also shall serve as judge of the 315
probate division, except in Lorain county in which the judges of 316
the domestic relations division of the Lorain county court of 317
common pleas elected pursuant to this section also shall perform 318
the duties and functions of the judge of the probate division 319
from February 9, 2009, through September 28, 2009, and except in 320
Morrow county in which the judges of the court of common pleas 321
elected pursuant to this section also shall perform the duties 322
and functions of the judge of the probate division. 323

Section 2. That existing section 2301.02 of the Revised 324
Code is hereby repealed. 325