

**The amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution changes the way we elect judges and justices to our appellate courts, including our Supreme Court. Instead of electing them statewide, this amendment dictates that they be elected from individual districts, drawn by the majority of the General Assembly.**

**The amendment would reduce the power of voters over the courts.** Every voter now votes for all 31 of our appellate court justices. Under the amendment, they would only vote for 3.

**There are no barriers to electing justices and judges from outside our big cities or from rural PA.** Many of them, as well as many of our two senators, and our governor and other executive branch officials come from outside the largest cities and their suburbs—in fact, the last justice elected to the Supreme Court comes from rural Pennsylvania.

**Regional representation on the courts is not vital which makes district-based elections unnecessary.** Legislators are elected by district so that regional interests can be accounted for in the legislative process. But there is no Montgomery County or Lebanon County way to interpret statutes and the Pennsylvania Constitution.

**Electing judges in districts can make it more difficult to put the best-qualified judges on the bench.** Appellate court judges need legal experience in appellate matters and / or judicial experience to sit on these courts. Although many grew up in rural parts of the state, such men and women tend to work as lawyers in the urban, commercial centers of the state where their services are needed.

**The amendment will allow for gerrymandering district lines in order to give one party or another a political advantage.** Given the well-known history of gerrymandering in this state, why should any Pennsylvanian support a proposal that would give the General Assembly the power to draw judicial district lines?

**The amendment would undermine the independence of the courts required by the separation of powers by giving the General Assembly too much influence over them.** Most states that elect their highest court judges do so through statewide rather than district elections to limit legislative influence over the courts. District election would allow the General Assembly to influence both the partisan and individual composition of the courts by gerrymandering judicial districts.

**The amendment will lead to more ideologically extreme justices and judges, leading to instability in the law.** Smaller, homogenous districts tend to tilt to the “left” or “right” and thus elect more ideologically extreme people. Statewide elections are more likely to elect moderate justices and judges.