

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DIRECT ELECTIONS OF KANSAS SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

WHEREAS, the power of self-governance is inherent in the people, and democracy is a cherished value that must be upheld in all branches of government, including the judiciary; and

WHEREAS, the current method of selecting Kansas Supreme Court justices—through a nominating commission dominated by lawyers—creates a system that is *of lawyers, by lawyers, and for lawyers*, disenfranchising the citizens of Kansas from having a direct say in their highest court; and

WHEREAS, only lawyers are permitted to elect the lawyer-majority members of the Kansas Supreme Court Nominating Commission, making it an elitist oligarchy rather than a system accountable to the people; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas Supreme Court has repeatedly issued rulings that do not reflect the values and interests of the people of Kansas, including siding with brutal murderers such as the Carr brothers rather than delivering the justice that Kansans demand; and

WHEREAS, over the past 20 years, the U.S. Supreme Court has overturned 87.5% of the Kansas Supreme Court decisions it has reviewed, demonstrating a troubling pattern of judicial overreach and misinterpretation of the law; and

WHEREAS, direct elections of Kansas Supreme Court justices would restore the people's right to select justices who are both qualified and representative of our state's values, ensuring that the judiciary remains accountable to Kansans rather than to an insulated legal elite; and

WHEREAS, the current system protects the special interests of lawyers, who have a vested interest in preserving their exclusive control over the judicial selection process at the expense of the democratic will of the people; and

WHEREAS, Republicans remain committed to democracy and the principles of representative government, ensuring that all branches of government reflect the will of the people and uphold the constitutional rights of Kansans;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Central Committee of the Shawnee County Republican Party fully supports judicial selection reform and endorses a *YES* vote on August 4, 2026, to implement direct elections for Kansas Supreme Court justices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Shawnee County Republican Party urges all voters to support this essential reform, restoring judicial accountability, upholding constitutional republic principles, and ensuring that the judiciary serves the people rather than an unelected legal elite.