

Reference:

Article III, Section 17

Ballot Title:

Impeachment of County Court Judges

Ballot Summary:

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to provide that county court judges shall be subject to impeachment by the Legislature and thereby removing present authority of Governor to suspend county court judges.

Full Text:

ARTICLE III

LEGISLATURE

SECTION 17. Impeachment.--

(a) The governor, lieutenant governor, members of the cabinet, justices of the supreme court, judges of district courts of appeal, ~~and~~ judges of circuit courts, and judges of county courts shall be liable to impeachment for misdemeanor in office. The house of representatives by two-thirds vote shall have the power to impeach an officer. The speaker of the house of representatives shall have power at any time to appoint a committee to investigate charges against any officer subject to impeachment.

(b) An officer impeached by the house of representatives shall be disqualified from performing any official duties until acquitted by the senate, and unless the governor is impeached he may be appointment fill the office until completion of the trial.

(c) All impeachments by the house of representatives shall be tried by the senate. The chief justice of the supreme court, or another justice designated by him, shall preside at the trial, except in a trial of the chief justice, in which case the governor shall preside. The senate shall determine the time for the trial of any impeachment and may sit for the trial whether the house of representatives be in session or not. The time fixed for trial shall not be more than six months after the impeachment. During an impeachment trial senators shall be upon their oath or affirmation. No officer shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members of the senate present. Judgment of conviction in cases of impeachment shall remove the offender from office and, in the discretion of the senate, may include disqualification to hold any office of honor, trust or profit. Conviction or acquittal shall not affect the civil or criminal responsibility of the officer.