

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

Reps. Rheingans, Stone, MacDonell, Morgan, Conlin, Coffia, McFall, Byrnes, Skaggs, Price, Hope, Wilson, Paiz, Dievendorf, Brabec, McKinney and Martus offered the following concurrent resolution:

1 A concurrent resolution to urge the Michigan Supreme Court to
2 amend the Code of Judicial Conduct to require Michigan judges to
3 make broader financial disclosures.

4 Whereas, In 2022, Michigan voters ratified Proposal 1, which
5 amended Article IV, § 10 of the *Constitution of the State of*
6 *Michigan of 1963* to require all members of the Legislature, the
7 Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Secretary of State, and the
8 Attorney General to make annual financial disclosures. These
9 officials are now required to make a detailed series of financial
10 disclosures which are to be filed with the Department of State and
11 made available to the public online; and

1 Whereas, Proposal 1 does not apply to members of the
2 judiciary. However, it remains the case that judicial officers make
3 decisions that affect the state. Moreover, transparency is in the
4 best interest of the public. Voters and litigants should be aware
5 of any potential financial conflicts of interest that judges have
6 when ruling on cases; and

7 Whereas, While the Code of Judicial Conduct currently requires
8 that Michigan judges make certain financial disclosures, it does
9 not require disclosures that are as thorough or as easily
10 scrutinized as those required by Proposal 1. For example, the Code
11 of Judicial Conduct does not require that judges disclose their
12 existing assets, the sources of their unearned income, or their
13 liabilities. It also does not require that the disclosures that
14 judges make be made available to the public online; now, therefore,
15 be it

16 Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate
17 concurring), That we urge the Michigan Supreme Court to amend the
18 Code of Judicial Conduct to require that supreme court justices,
19 judges of the court of appeals, and judges of any other court they
20 deem necessary, make annual financial disclosures to at least the
21 same degree of thoroughness, and with the same level of public
22 accessibility, as the disclosures ratified by Proposal 1 into
23 Article IV, § 10 of the *Constitution of the State of Michigan of*
24 *1963*; and be it further

25 Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the
26 Michigan Supreme Court.