

NO ON SB 200 PARTISAN JUDICIAL ELECTIONS

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- Montana has had non-partisan judicial elections since 1935.
- Since 1935 Republicans have controlled chambers of the House and Senate more of the time than Democrats
- Since 1935 8 governors of each party have held office.
- What has been consistent throughout that period is that Montana's judiciary has remained a non-partisan, independent branch of government.
- SB 200 places that long term stability and independence at risk.
- Very few states elect judges on a partisan basis.
- A Texas bi-partisan commission is now recommending that Texas discontinue its partisan judicial election system.
- Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R), said: "Texas must evaluate the importance of an independent judiciary free from politics. **We need judges devoted to the constitution and strict application of the law, not to the political winds of the day.**"
- The Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court, Hon. Nathan Hecht, a Republican and longest-serving member of the court in Texas history, describes a partisan election system for judges as **"among the very worst methods of judicial selection."** Chief Justice Hecht told Texas lawmakers: **"Make no mistake: A judicial selection system that continues to sow the political wind will reap the whirlwind."**
- If Montana adopts SB 200 it will become the **only** state in the nation with a divided judiciary elected both on a partisan and non-partisan basis and the bill will reverse nearly a century of Montana's judges being beholden to independence and the rule of law, not a particular political party.

Don't let Montana become "among the very worst methods of judicial selection."