

HOUSE BILL NO. 169

INTRODUCED BY T. MILLETT, L. SCHUBERT, B. USHER, T. TEZAK

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING STANDARDS OF CONDUCT REGARDING
POLITICAL ACTIVITY FOR JUDGES AND JUDICIAL CANDIDATES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Conduct of judges and judicial candidates. (1) A judge or a judicial
candidate may:

(a) attend or purchase tickets for dinners or other events sponsored by a partisan or independent
candidate for nonjudicial public office; and

(b) seek, accept, or use endorsements from a political organization or a partisan or independent
nonjudicial officeholder or candidate.

(2) If allowed by law to campaign with a party designation, a judge or a judicial candidate may:

~~(a) — act as a leader in or hold an office in a political organization;~~

~~(b)(a)~~ make speeches on behalf of a political organization or any partisan or independent nonjudicial
officeholder or candidate for public office;

~~(c)(b)~~ publicly endorse or oppose a partisan or independent candidate for any nonjudicial public
office;

~~(d)(c)~~ solicit funds for, pay an assessment to, or make a contribution to a political organization or to or
on behalf of any partisan or independent officeholder or candidate for public office; and

~~(e)(d)~~ publicly self-identify as a candidate of a political organization.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
integral part of Title 3, chapter 1, and the provisions of Title 3, chapter 1, apply to [section 1].

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Severability. If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are

Amendment - 1st Reading-white - Requested by: Tom Millett - (H) Judiciary

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Matthew Weaver,

HB0169.001.001

1 severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its applications,
2 the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

3 - END -