

**MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 116 of 1954**  
Chapter XVIII  
JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT

**168.391 Office of justice of supreme court; eligibility.**

Sec. 391.

A person is not eligible to the office of justice of the supreme court unless the person is a registered and qualified elector of this state by the filing deadline or the date the person files the affidavit of candidacy, is licensed to practice law in this state, and at the time of election or appointment is less than 70 years of age.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955 ;-- Am. 1955, Act 271, Imd. Eff. June 30, 1955 ;-- Am. 1982, Act 505, Eff. Mar. 30, 1983 ;-- Am. 1999, Act 218, Eff. Mar. 10, 2000 ;-- Am. 2018, Act 120, Eff. Dec. 31, 2018

**Popular Name:** Election Code

**168.392 Candidates for justice of supreme court; nomination at fall state convention.**

Sec. 392.

At its fall state convention, each political party may nominate the number of candidates for the office of justice of the supreme court as are to be elected at the next ensuing general election.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955 ;-- Am. 1963, 2nd Ex. Sess., Act 61, Imd. Eff. Dec. 27, 1963

**Popular Name:** Election Code

**168.392a Candidates for justice of supreme court; incumbents, affidavit of candidacy for re-election.**

Sec. 392a.

Any incumbent justice of the supreme court may become a candidate for re-election as a justice of the supreme court by filing with the secretary of state an affidavit of candidacy not less than 180 days prior to the expiration of his term of office.

The affidavit of candidacy shall contain statements that the affiant is an incumbent supreme court justice, that he is domiciled within the state, that he will not have attained the age of 70 years prior to the date of election and a declaration that he is a candidate for election to the office of supreme court justice.

**History:** Add. 1963, 2nd Ex. Sess., Act 61, Imd. Eff. Dec. 27, 1963

**Popular Name:** Election Code

**168.393 Candidates for justice of supreme court; canvass by state central committee of each political party.**

Sec. 393.

Not more than 24 hours after the conclusion of the fall state convention, the state central committee of each political party shall convene and canvass the proceedings of the convention and determine the nominee or nominees of the convention for the office or offices of justice of the supreme court. Not more than 1 business day after the conclusion of the state convention, the chairperson and secretary of the state central committee shall forward by registered or certified mail to the secretary of state a typewritten or printed list of the names and residence,

including the street address if known, of the candidate or candidates nominated at the convention for the office or offices of justice of the supreme court. The secretary of state shall forward a copy of a list received under this section to the board of election commissioners of each county, in care of the county clerk at the county seat. The name of each nominee on the list shall be printed upon a nonpartisan judicial ballot containing no party designation together with the names of incumbent justices filing an affidavit under section 392a.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955 ;-- Am. 1955, Act 271, Imd. Eff. June 30, 1955 ;-- Am. 1956, Act 190, Imd. Eff. Apr. 26, 1956 ;-- Am. 1963, 2nd Ex. Sess., Act 61, Imd. Eff. Dec. 27, 1963 ;-- Am. 1999, Act 216, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 1999 ;-- Am. 2004, Act 92, Imd. Eff. Apr. 26, 2004

**Compiler's Notes:** Act 269 of 2001, which was approved by the Governor and filed with the Secretary of State on January 11, 2002, provided for the amendment of MCL 168.31, 168.73, 168.283, 168.393, 168.509y, 168.509aa, 168.561a, 168.624, 168.624a, 168.686, 168.706, 168.727, 168.737, 168.745, 168.769, 168.782b, 168.795, 168.795c, 168.797a, 168.798c, 168.799a, 168.803, 168.804, 168.842, and 168.931 of, the addition of Sec. 701 to, and the repeal of Sec. 509 of, Act 116 of 1954, known as the Michigan Election Law. A petition seeking a referendum on Act 269 of 2001 was filed with the Secretary of State. The Board of State Canvassers officially declared the sufficiency of the referendum petition on May 14, 2002. Const 1963, art 2, sec 9, provides that no law as to which the power of referendum properly has been invoked shall be effective thereafter unless approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon at the next general election. A referendum on Act 269 of 2001 was presented to the electors at the November 5, 2002, general election as Proposal 02-1, which read as follows: "A REFERENDUM ON PUBLIC ACT 269 OF 2001--AN ACT TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW Public Act 269 of 2001 would:--Eliminate "straight party" vote option on partisan general election ballots.--Require Secretary of State to obtain training reports from local election officials.--Require registered voters who do not appear on registration list to show picture identification before voting a challenged ballot.--Require expedited canvass if presidential vote differential is under 25,000.--Require ballot counting equipment to screen ballots for voting errors to ensure the accurate tabulation of absentee ballots. Permit voters in polls to correct errors.--Provide penalties for stealing campaign signs or accepting payment for campaign work while being paid as a public employee to perform election duties.Should this law be approved? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_" Act 269 of 2001 was not approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon at the November 5, 2002, general election.

**Popular Name:** Election Code

#### **168.394 Candidates for justice of supreme court; withdrawal; notice.**

Sec. 394.

Any person who has been certified by the state central committee of any party as nominated for the office of justice of the supreme court or who filed an affidavit according to section 392a may withdraw by filing a written notice of withdrawal with the secretary of state or his or her duly authorized agent and a copy with the chairperson and secretary of the state central committee of the party not later than 4 p.m., eastern standard time, of the fourth business day following the conclusion of the convention.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955 ;-- Am. 1963, 2nd Ex. Sess., Act 61, Imd. Eff. Dec. 27, 1963 ;-- Am. 1999, Act 216, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 1999

**Popular Name:** Election Code

#### **168.395 Candidates for justice of supreme court; death, withdrawal, disqualification; selection of new candidate, certification; ballots.**

Sec. 395.

Whenever a candidate of a political party, after having been nominated to the office of justice of the supreme court or having filed an affidavit according to section 392a, shall die, withdraw, remove from the state, or become disqualified for any reason, the state central committee of any party which is thereby left without a candidate nominated or indorsed by that party shall meet forthwith and, by a majority vote of the members thereof, shall select a candidate to fill the vacancy thereby caused. The name of the candidate so selected shall be immediately certified by the chairman and the secretary of said committee to the secretary of state and to the board of election commissioners for each county, whose duty it is to prepare the official ballots, and said board shall cause to be printed or placed upon said ballots, in the proper place, the name of the candidate so selected to fill the vacancy.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955 ;-- Am. 1963, 2nd Ex. Sess., Act 61, Imd. Eff. Dec. 27, 1963

**Popular Name:** Election Code

**168.396 Supreme court justices; election.**

Sec. 396.

Subject to section 6 of the schedule to the state constitution, 2 justices of the supreme court shall be elected at the general election in 1966 and at the general election every 2 years thereafter.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955 ;-- Am. 1963, 2nd Ex. Sess., Act 61, Imd. Eff. Dec. 27, 1963

**Popular Name:** Election Code

**168.397 Supreme court justices; certificate of determination by board of state canvassers.**

Sec. 397.

The board of state canvassers shall determine which candidates for justices of the supreme court have received the greatest number of votes and shall declare such candidates to be duly elected. The said board shall forthwith make and subscribe on its statement of returns a certificate of such determination and deliver the same to the secretary of state.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955

**Popular Name:** Election Code

**168.398 Supreme court justices; certificate of election.**

Sec. 398.

The secretary of state shall file in his office and preserve the original statement and determination of the board of state canvassers of the result of the election and shall forthwith execute and cause to be delivered to the persons thereby declared to be elected to the office of justice of the supreme court a certificate of election, certified by him under the great seal of the state.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955

**Popular Name:** Election Code

**168.399 Supreme court justices; term of office.**

Sec. 399.

The term of office of justice of the supreme court shall be 8 years, beginning on the first day of January next following the election and shall continue until a successor is elected and qualified.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955

**Popular Name:** Election Code

#### **168.400 Supreme court justices; oath of office, deposit.**

Sec. 400.

Every person elected to the office of justice of the supreme court, before entering upon the duties of his office, shall take and subscribe to the oath as provided in section 1 of article 11 of the state constitution, and shall deposit said oath with the secretary of state.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955 ;-- Am. 1963, 2nd Ex. Sess., Act 61, Imd. Eff. Dec. 27, 1963

**Popular Name:** Election Code

#### **168.401 Supreme court justices; resignation, notice.**

Sec. 401.

Any person duly elected to the office of justice of the supreme court who desires to resign shall file a written notice containing the effective date of such resignation with the court administrator and a copy with the governor and secretary of state.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955 ;-- Am. 1963, 2nd Ex. Sess., Act 61, Imd. Eff. Dec. 27, 1963

**Popular Name:** Election Code

#### **168.402 Supreme court justices; vacancy, creation.**

Sec. 402.

The office of justice of the supreme court shall become vacant upon the happening of any of the following events: Death of the incumbent; his resignation; his removal from office for cause; his ceasing to be a resident of the state; his conviction of an infamous crime, or an offense involving the violation of his oath of office; the decision of a competent tribunal declaring his election or appointment void; or his neglect or refusal to take and subscribe to the constitutional oath of office and deposit the same in the manner and within the time prescribed by law.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955

**Popular Name:** Election Code

#### **168.403 Supreme court justices; impeachment; removal from office, service of charges, hearing.**

Sec. 403.

Any person holding the office of justice of the supreme court may be removed from office by impeachment for the reasons and in the manner set forth in section 7 of article 11 of the state constitution, or the governor shall remove any justice of the supreme court upon a concurrent resolution of 2/3 of the members elected to and serving in each house of the state legislature, and the cause for such removal shall be stated at length in such resolution, as provided in the constitution of this state. Such person shall be served with a written notice of the charges against him and be afforded an opportunity for a hearing thereon. When a vacancy shall occur in any of the said offices, a notice of such vacancy and the reason why the same exists shall, within 10 days after such vacancy occurs, be given in writing by the secretary of state to the court administrator with a copy to the governor.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955 ;-- Am. 1963, 2nd Ex. Sess., Act 61, Imd. Eff. Dec. 27, 1963

**Popular Name:** Election Code

**168.404 Office of supreme court justice; vacancy; appointment; election.**

Sec. 404.

(1) The governor shall appoint a successor to fill the vacancy in the office of justice of the supreme court. The person appointed by the governor shall be considered an incumbent for purposes of this act and shall hold office until 12 noon of January 1 following the next general election, at which a successor is elected and qualified.

(2) At the next general November election held at least 105 days after the vacancy occurs, a person nominated under section 392 shall be elected to fill that office. The person elected shall hold the office for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(3) A candidate receiving the highest number of votes for that office who has subscribed to the oath as provided in section 1 of article XI of the state constitution is considered to be elected and qualified even though a vacancy occurs before the time he or she has entered upon the duties of his or her office.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955 ;-- Am. 1955, Act 271, Imd. Eff. June 30, 1955 ;-- Am. 1963, 2nd Ex. Sess., Act 61, Imd. Eff. Dec. 27, 1963 ;-- Am. 1970, Act 10, Imd. Eff. Mar. 31, 1970 ;-- Am. 1999, Act 218, Eff. Mar. 10, 2000

**Popular Name:** Election Code

**168.405 Supreme court justices; election, recount of votes.**

Sec. 405.

The votes cast for any candidate for justice of the supreme court at any election shall be subject to recount as provided in chapter 33 of this act.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955

**Popular Name:** Election Code

**168.406 Supreme court justices; not subject to recall.**

Sec. 406.

Judicial officers are not subject to recall as provided in section 8 of article 2 of the state constitution.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955 ;-- Am. 1963, 2nd Ex. Sess., Act 61, Imd. Eff. Dec. 27, 1963

**Popular Name:** Election Code