

REVISED JUDICATURE ACT OF 1961 (EXCERPT)
Act 236 of 1961

600.8123 Forty-third district to fifty-second district.

Sec. 8123. (1) The forty-third district consists of the cities of Madison Heights, Ferndale, and Hazel Park, is a district of the third class, and has 3 judges.

(2) The forty-fourth district consists of the cities of Royal Oak and Berkley and has 2 judges.

(3) The forty-fifth district consists of the cities of Huntington Woods, Oak Park, and Pleasant Ridge and the township of Royal Oak in the county of Oakland, is a district of the third class, and has 2 judges.

(4) The forty-sixth district consists of the cities of Southfield and Lathrup Village and the township of Southfield in the county of Oakland, is a district of the third class, and has 3 judges.

(5) The forty-seventh district consists of the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills, is a district of the third class, and has 2 judges.

(6) The forty-eighth district consists of the cities of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Sylvan Lake, Keego Harbor, and Orchard Lake Village and the townships of Bloomfield and West Bloomfield in the county of Oakland, is a district of the third class, and has the following number of judges:

(a) Until the date determined under subdivision (b), the forty-eighth district has 3 judges.

(b) The forty-eighth district has 2 judges beginning on the earlier of the following dates:

(i) The date on which a vacancy occurs in the office of district judge in this district, unless the vacancy occurs after the vacating judge has been defeated in a primary or general election.

(ii) The beginning date of the term for which an incumbent district judge in this district no longer seeks election or reelection to that office.

(7) The fiftieth district consists of the city of Pontiac, is a district of the third class, and has the following number of judges:

(a) Until the date determined under subdivision (b), 4 judges.

(b) The fiftieth district has 3 judges beginning on the earlier of the following dates:

(i) The date on which a vacancy occurs in the office of district judge in this district, unless the vacancy occurs after the vacating judge has been defeated in a primary or general election.

(ii) The beginning date of the term for which an incumbent district judge in this district no longer seeks election or reelection to that office.

(8) The fifty-first district consists of the township of Waterford in the county of Oakland, is a district of the third class, and has 2 judges.

(9) The fifty-second district consists of the county of Oakland except the cities of Madison Heights, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Royal Oak, Berkley, Huntington Woods, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Southfield, Lathrup Village, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Northville, Sylvan Lake, Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake Village, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, and Pontiac and the townships of Royal Oak, Southfield, West Bloomfield, Bloomfield, and Waterford, is a district of the second class, and is divided into the following election divisions:

(a) The first division consists of the cities of Novi, South Lyon, Wixom, and Walled Lake and the townships of Milford, Highland, Commerce, Lyon, and Novi and has 3 judges.

(b) The second division consists of the city of the village of Clarkston and the townships of Springfield, Independence, Holly, Groveland, Brandon, Rose, and White Lake and has 2 judges.

(c) The third division consists of the cities of Rochester, Auburn Hills, Rochester Hills, and Lake Angelus and the townships of Oxford, Addison, Orion, and Oakland and has 3 judges.

(d) The fourth division consists of the cities of Troy and Clawson and has 2 judges.

History: Add. 1968, Act 154, Imd. Eff. June 17, 1968;—Am. 1970, Act 30, Imd. Eff. June 11, 1970;—Am. 1970, Act 238, Eff. Jan. 1, 1971;—Am. 1972, Act 169, Imd. Eff. June 15, 1972;—Am. 1974, Act 145, Imd. Eff. June 7, 1974;—Am. 1977, Act 129, Imd. Eff. Oct. 21, 1977;—Am. 1978, Act 164, Imd. Eff. May 25, 1978;—Am. 1984, Act 142, Imd. Eff. June 21, 1984;—Am. 1988, Act 135, Imd. Eff. May 27, 1988;—Am. 1990, Act 54, Imd. Eff. Apr. 11, 1990;—Am. 2000, Act 447, Eff. Mar. 28, 2001;—Am. 2000, Act 448, Imd. Eff. Jan. 9, 2001;—Am. 2011, Act 300, Imd. Eff. Dec. 22, 2011;—Am. 2012, Act 37, Imd. Eff. Feb. 28, 2012;—Am. 2012, Act 624, Imd. Eff. Jan. 9, 2013;—Am. 2014, Act 58, Imd. Eff. Mar. 27, 2014;—Am. 2018, Act 6, Imd. Eff. Jan. 26, 2018.

Compiler's note: Sections 2 to 7 of Act 145 of 1974 provide:

“Effective date of changes.

“Section 2. The changes in the composition of judicial circuits or district court districts as provided in this amendatory act shall become effective for judicial purposes on January 1, 1975.

“Election of additional circuit and district judges; assumption of office; appearance of new judgeships on ballot; nominating petitions; incumbent judges.

“Section 3. The additional circuit and district judges authorized by this amendatory act shall be elected in 1974 and shall assume office on January 1, 1975. The new judgeships authorized by this amendatory act shall appear on the ballot separate and apart from other

judicial offices on the ballot in the primary and general election in the respective judicial circuits and district court districts. If another judicial office of the same court is to be filled by election in the same circuit or district, a candidate for a new judgeship authorized in that circuit or district by this amendatory act shall indicate, at the time of filing his nominating petitions, whether he is filing for a new judgeship or for 1 of the other judicial offices of the same court to be filled by election in the applicable year. Petitions for a new judgeship created by this act must bear signatures affixed thereto after the effective date of this act. Any incumbent circuit or district judge whose term is expiring January 1, 1975, and who is seeking election to a judicial office of the same court in 1974 is entitled to the designation of his office even if he is a candidate for a new office of the same court authorized by this amendatory act.

“Nominating petitions.

“Section 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, nominating petitions for the offices added by this 1974 amendatory act shall contain not less than 1/2 of 1% nor more than 2% of the total number of votes cast in that judicial circuit for secretary of state at the last preceding general November election in which a secretary of state was elected.

“Nomination, election, and terms of candidates for new circuit judgeships.

“Section 5. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 3 and 4 of Act No. 169 of the Public Acts of 1972, the 10 candidates for the new circuit judgeships in the third judicial circuit created by Act No. 169 of the Public Acts of 1972 who receive the highest votes in the August primary election shall be deemed nominated for the 5 new judgeships created thereby. Of the additional judgeships so created for the third judicial circuit the candidate receiving the highest number of votes in the 1974 general election shall be elected for a term of 10 years, the candidates receiving the second and third highest number of votes shall be elected for a term of 8 years, and the candidates receiving the fourth and fifth highest number of votes shall be elected for a term of 6 years.

“Terms of additional circuit judges.

“Section 6. The additional circuit judges authorized by this amendatory act shall be elected for a term of 6 years except that the additional circuit judge authorized by this amendatory act in the forty-fourth judicial circuit shall be elected for a term of 8 years.

“Terms of additional district judges in certain districts.

“Section 7. In districts in which the district court is already functioning on the effective date of this amendatory act, the additional district judges authorized by this amendatory act shall be elected for a term of 6 years, except that the additional district judges authorized in the first election division of the ninth district and in the fifteenth district shall be elected for a term of 8 years and that the additional district judge authorized in the newly divided forty-first-a district shall be elected for a term of 4 years.”

Sections 2 to 7 of Act 164 of 1978 provide:

“Sections 600.6404, 600.6410, and 600.6413 effective January 1, 1979; effective date of changes in composition of judicial circuits or district court districts.

“Section 2. Sections 6404, 6410, and 6413 of Act No. 236 of the Public Acts of 1961, as amended by this amendatory act, being sections 600.6404, 600.6410, and 600.6413 of the Compiled Laws of 1970, shall not take effect until January 1, 1979. Except as otherwise provided in sections 524, 527, and 534 of Act No. 236 of the Public Acts of 1961, as amended by this amendatory act, being sections 600.524, 600.527, and 600.534 of the Compiled Laws of 1970, the changes in the composition of judicial circuits or district court districts as provided in this amendatory act shall become effective for judicial purposes on January 1, 1979.

“Election to fill new circuit and district judgeships; term.

“Section 3. Except as otherwise provided in sections 4, 5, 6 and 7, the new circuit and district judgeships created by this amendatory act shall be filled by election pursuant to Act No. 116 of the Public Acts of 1954, as amended, being sections 168.1 to 168.992 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, for a term of 6 years commencing January 1, 1979.

“Ballot; nominating petition; affidavit of candidacy.

“Section 4. The new judgeships authorized by this amendatory act shall appear on the ballot separate and apart from other judicial offices on the ballot in the primary and general election in the respective circuit and district court districts. If another judicial office of the same court is to be filled by election in the same circuit or district, a candidate for a new judgeship authorized in that circuit or district by this amendatory act shall indicate, at the time of filing nominating petitions, whether the candidate is filing for a new judgeship or for 1 of the other judicial offices of the same court to be filled by election in the applicable year. Petitions for a new judgeship created by this act shall bear signatures affixed to the petition after the effective date of this act. An elected incumbent circuit judge in a circuit in which the number of circuit judges has been increased by this amendatory act may become a candidate in the primary election for that office for any term for which a circuit judge is to be elected at the 1978 general election in that circuit by filing an affidavit of candidacy with the secretary of state not later than 4 days after the effective date of this amendatory act.

“Terms of judges.

“Section 5. Of the 2 additional judgeships created for the third judicial circuit, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes in the 1978 general election shall be elected for a term of 8 years and the candidate receiving the second highest number of votes shall be elected for a term of 6 years. Of the 3 additional judgeships created for the sixth judicial circuit, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes in the 1978 general election shall be elected for a term of 8 years and the candidates receiving the second and third highest number of votes shall be elected for a term of 6 years. Of the 2 additional judgeships created for the thirtieth judicial circuit, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes in the 1978 general election shall be elected for a term of 8 years and the candidate receiving the second highest number of votes shall be elected for a term of 6 years. The additional circuit judges authorized by this amendatory act in the eighth, seventeenth, and twenty-ninth judicial circuits shall be elected for a term of 8 years. The additional circuit judge authorized by this amendatory act in the eighteenth, thirty-first, thirty-eighth, and fortieth judicial circuits shall be elected for a term of 10 years. The additional district judges authorized in the thirty-fifth and forty-first-a districts and in the first division of the fifty-sixth district shall be elected for a term of 4 years.

“Election of additional judges; assumption and term of office.

“Section 6. (1) The additional district judges authorized by this amendatory act in the fifty-fourth-b district and the first division of the fifty-second district shall be elected in 1980 and shall assume office on January 1, 1981, for a term of 4 years.

“(2) The additional circuit judge authorized by this amendatory act in the fourteenth judicial circuit shall be elected in 1980 and shall assume office on January 1, 1981, for a term of 8 years.

“Residence of certain circuit judges; effect.

“Section 7. If the circuit judge elected in the twenty-sixth judicial circuit in 1978 is a resident of the county of Cheboygan on June 6, 1978, that person shall continue during the remainder of his or her term after January 1, 1981 as a judge of the thirty-third judicial circuit and the second circuit judgeship authorized by law for the twenty-sixth judicial circuit shall be filled by election in 1980 for a term of 8 years. If the circuit judge elected in the twenty-sixth judicial circuit in 1978 is a resident of 1 of the counties of Alpena, Montmorency, or Presque Isle on June 6, 1978, that person shall continue during the remainder of his or her term after January 1, 1981 as a judge of the twenty-sixth judicial circuit and the second circuit judgeship authorized by law for the thirty-third judicial circuit shall be filled by

election in 1980 for a term of 6 years.”

Section 1 of Act 128 of 1980 provides:

“Enacting sections amended; revised judicature act of 1961.

“Section 1. Enacting sections 6 and 7 of Act No. 164 of the Public Acts of 1978 are amended to read as follows:

“Election of additional judges; assumption and terms of office.

“Section 6. (1) The additional district judge authorized by this amendatory act in the first division of the fifty-second district shall be elected in 1980 and shall assume office on January 1, 1981, for a term of 8 years.

“(2) The additional circuit judge authorized by this amendatory act in the fourteenth judicial circuit shall be elected in 1980 and shall assume office on January 1, 1981, for a term of 8 years.

“Twenty-sixth judicial circuit; vacancy; residence of candidates; eligibility of electors; failure of Cheboygan county to approve creation of fifty-third judicial circuit and circuit judgeship.

“Section 7. (1) If a vacancy occurs in the twenty-sixth judicial circuit between the effective date of this section, as amended, and June 3, 1980, candidates to fill the unexpired portion of the term shall be residents of the twenty-sixth judicial circuit as that circuit will be constituted on January 1, 1981, pursuant to this act. Electors of the counties of Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Presque Isle shall be eligible to vote in the primary and general elections of 1980 to fill that vacancy and electors of those counties are qualified to sign and circulate nominating petitions for candidates to fill the vacancy.

“(2) If the county of Cheboygan does not approve the creation of the fifty-third judicial circuit and the circuit judgeship proposed for it pursuant to House Bill No. 5553 of the 1980 regular session of the legislature, the second circuit judgeship authorized by law for the thirty-third judicial circuit shall be filled by election in 1980 for a term of 6 years.”

Section 2 of Act 135 of 1988 provides:

“Any additional district judgeship to be added by election in 1988 shall not be authorized to be filled by election unless each district control unit of the district, by resolution adopted by the governing body of the district control unit, approves the creation of that judgeship and unless the clerk of each district control unit adopting such a resolution files a copy of the resolution with the state court administrator not later than 4 p.m. of the tenth Tuesday preceding the August primary for the election to fill the additional district judgeship.”

Section 2 of Act 54 of 1990 provides:

“If a new judicial circuit of the circuit court is created under this amendatory act pursuant to section 550a, the change in the composition of the affected judicial circuits shall take effect for judicial purposes on January 1, 1991. If the fifty-sixth judicial circuit is created pursuant to this amendatory act, the incumbent judge of the fifth judicial circuit who resides in Eaton county shall become the judge of the fifty-sixth judicial circuit on January 1, 1991, and shall serve until the term for which he or she was elected in the fifth judicial circuit expires.”

Enacting sections 1 and 2 of Act 448 of 2000 provide:

“Enacting section 1. The changes in the composition of first and second election divisions of the fifty-second district court district as provided in this amendatory act shall be effective for election purposes on March 1, 2002, and for judicial purposes on January 1, 2003. Electors of the townships of Rose and White Lake in Oakland county shall not be eligible to be a candidate for the office of district judge in the first election division of the fifty-second district in the primary and general elections of 2002, shall not be eligible to vote for that office in the primary and general elections of 2002, and are not qualified to sign nominating petitions for candidates for that office in 2002. If a vacancy occurs in the second election division of the fifty-second district prior to the filing deadline for the office of district judge in 2002, the townships of Rose and White Lake shall be considered part of the second election division for purposes of the election to fill the unexpired term of that judgeship.

“Enacting section 2. (1) If a new office of judge is added to the first election division of the fifty-second district to be filled by election in 2002, both of the following apply:

(a) The term of office for the new judge elected in the first election division of the fifty-second district in the November 2002 general election shall be 4 years, for that election only.

(b) The term of office for the judge elected in the first election division of the fifty-second district in the November 2006 general election shall be 4 years, for that election only.

(2) The judge serving in the first election division of the fifty-second district who is transferred to the second election division of the fifty-second district pursuant to this amendatory act shall serve as a judge of the second election division of the fifty-second district for the balance of the term for which he or she was elected or appointed.”