

APPENDIX



New Jersey State League of Municipalities

222 West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08608
PHONE (609) 695-3481 * FAX (609) 695-5156
EMAIL league@njslom.com * www.njslom.com

William G. Dressel, Jr. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michael J. Darcy, CAE ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jon R. Moran SENIOR LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

Michael F. Cerra SENIOR LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

Loretta Buckelew SENIOR LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

Matthew Weng LEAGUE STAFF ATTORNEY

December 10, 2012

Re: ACR-88

Dear Member of the Assembly Judiciary Committee:

The League of Municipalities supports ACR-88, which would, if enacted and ratified, allow the municipalities involved in the establishment of a joint municipal court to determine the manner in which the judges of that court would be appointed. Currently, the Constitution allows the Governor to nominate and the State Senate to confirm joint municipal court judges.

It is appropriate to allow local elected officials to make appointments to locally established courts, which will be funded through local budgets. That has always been a basic tenet of our representative democracy. This proposed amendment and bill would correct the current deficiency and remove one impediment to greater sharing of municipal court services.

We thank the sponsors for their leadership on this issue. We urge that the Resolution be given favorable consideration.

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signature of William G. Dressel, Jr.

William G. Dressel, Jr. Executive Director

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**THE NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS
ACR-88, WHICH PROPOSES CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
REMOVING GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL
COURT JUDGES**

On behalf of the New Jersey State Bar Association (NJSBA), this is to express the NJSBA's support to ACR-88 (Wisniewski), which proposes a constitutional amendment removing gubernatorial appointment of certain municipal court judges.

The NJSBA's Board of Trustees and Legislative Committee voted to support this constitutional amendment because we believe that it will streamline court administration in New Jersey's municipal courts. First, the bill will provide a process to appoint inter-municipal court judges which takes into account the concerns of the municipalities. This could have the impact of getting municipal court judges appointed more quickly. Second, given recent efforts to regionalize municipal services, this constitutional amendment allows municipalities to retain the judicial appointment authority that they have with a single municipal court in an inter-municipal court situation. We firmly believe that New Jersey voters rejected this legislation because they did not understand how the legislation would benefit their communities by promoting the consolidation of services while allowing municipalities to continue to provide input into the jurist selected to hear municipal court matters.

12/4/2012

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