



## **Resolution Protecting the Integrity and Independence of the United States Supreme Court**

Whereas the United States Supreme Court has been composed of a chief justice and eight associate justices for more than 150 years;

Whereas to ensure the protections of our constitutional rights and to keep the scales of justice intact so our government does not become tyrannical, the United States Supreme Court should remain an independent element of the United States' system of checks and balances;

Whereas the president of the United States and Congress should be prohibited from undermining the independence and integrity of the Supreme Court by changing the number of Supreme Court justices;

Whereas President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's effort to change the makeup of the United States Supreme Court was unsuccessful;

Whereas the last time the number of Justices was changed was in 1869;

Whereas in an interview in March 2019, former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg opposed the idea of court packing because ..."If anything would make the Court look partisan it would be that—one side saying, 'When we're in power, we're going to enlarge the number of judges, so we would have more people who would vote the way we want them to.'";

Whereas in a recent poll dated September 2020, there was overwhelming bi-partisan support (68% to 18% or nearly 4 to 1) for keeping the current number of the Supreme Court justices; and

Whereas constitutionally establishing the number of Supreme Court justices as 9 would protect the independence of the Supreme Court from escalating politicization; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the Hawai'i Republican Party, in virtual convention on May 15, 2021:

1. urges members of the Hawai'i State legislature and the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation initiate action to amend Article III of the United States Constitution to establish that the Supreme Court shall consist of nine justices; and

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2. will post copies of this resolution on the Hawai'i Republican Party website and transmit copies to the Hawai'i State Legislature and the Hawaii's Congressional delegation.

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