

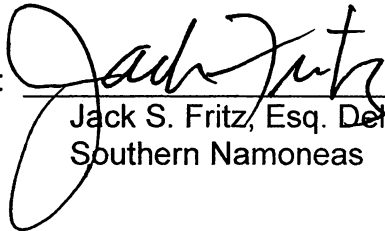
## A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION

To amend section 2 (d) of Article X of the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia to require all judges of the Supreme Court and other courts and the principal officers of the executive departments to be FSM citizens

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(d) with the advice and consent of Congress, to appoint ambassadors; all judges of the Supreme Court and other courts prescribed by statute; the principal officers of executive departments in the national government; and such other officers as may be provided for by statute. Ambassadors and principal officers serve at the pleasure of the President. **All ambassadors, judges of the Supreme Court and other courts prescribed by statute; the principal officers of executive departments in the national government shall be citizens of FSM. This amendment shall apply prospectively only.**

Sponsor:

  
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**Purpose and intent:** In 1975, Micronesians began taking steps to take ownership of their governments and we in FSM in adopting the current FSM Constitution look to its applicability in defining ourselves and our governments. To enable us to create a nation which protects our values and norms, our forefathers allocated certain authorities and powers to enable us continue defining ourselves and to complete the taking of ownership of our newly created governments. To protect and preserve our individual state uniqueness, matters relating to land and waters, and customs and tradition are vested with the states, not the national government a newly created entity by the states (districts at that time). In the formation of and early development of our nation, we lack the necessary qualified manpower to run our governments at all levels of governments. We had and were grateful for those non-citizens who help us built our legal structures and governments up to this time. However, 40 years have passed and at present our nation has sufficient manpower to assume those duties and responsibilities presently carried out by non-citizens. Our citizens must be given opportunities to learn and gain experiences while performing such tasks. It is time to overcome our own fears. It may be argued that perhaps this notion of restricting high level positions to citizens should be inserted in the various articles where those positions are placed in our constitution. However, I believe this is the right place to insert this requirement. Because of current situations with non-citizens still occupying some high-level positions, this amendment would apply prospectively only, no retroactive applications.