



# Rob Hutton

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 13<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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## **Hutton's Chief Justice Constitutional Amendment Passes Legislature**

*Amendment will soon go to the Voters for their Approval*

MADISON – Legislation authored by State Representative Rob Hutton (R-Brookfield) allowing Wisconsin's Supreme Court justices to choose their own chief justice was approved by the State Assembly last week. If approved by the voters, Wisconsin will join 23 other states in having some form of peer selection for their chief justice.

"The chief justice of Wisconsin holds the most esteemed position in Wisconsin's court system," Hutton said. "The chief justice serves as the administrative head of the state's entire court system and sets the direction for Wisconsin's Judicial Branch. It is imperative that our Supreme Court justices have the ability to choose who they think is most qualified for the position."

The Chief Justice Constitutional Amendment, Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 2, directs the state's Supreme Court to elect a chief justice for a term of two years. "Currently, the role of chief justice goes to the Court's longest-serving member, with no term limits. SJR 2 simply allows the justices to elect their own leader and choose who they think is best for that role," said Hutton. "In so doing, SJR 2 gives everyone on the court the opportunity to lead."

In order to make a change to the state's constitution, a constitutional resolution must be passed by both houses of the Legislature in identical form in each of two consecutive sessions. Instead of going to the Governor for his signature, a constitutional resolution then is put to the voters as a statewide referendum. If a majority of the electorate votes in favor of the referendum question, the amendment is then added to the Wisconsin Constitution. Now that SJR 2 has passed both houses of the Legislature in two consecutive sessions, the amendment will go before the voters on April 7<sup>th</sup> of this year.

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