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# JAMES W. EDMING

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 87<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Rep. Edming Favors Constitutional Amendment on Election of Chief Justice**

**Madison**...Rep. James W. Edming (R-Glen Flora) approved a constitutional amendment that allows Supreme Court justices to elect their chief justice for a two-year term. Currently, the justice with the most seniority on the court serves as chief justice. The amendment would create a more democratic approach to the Supreme Court, as all seven justices would have input in selecting their leader.

“The legislature utilizes a system of peer selection for its leadership that has proven to be successful; the judicial branch should be given the same opportunity,” said Rep. Edming. “Twenty-three other states use a peer selection method, so this is not a new idea for the judiciary.”

In a 2011 poll conducted by [20/20 Insight Polling](#), 62 percent of Wisconsinites surveyed supported this proposal.

“Wisconsinites want this legislation. Ultimately, voters will choose whether or not to accept this constitutional modification,” said Rep. Edming.

In order to amend Wisconsin’s constitution, two successive legislatures must also pass the same resolution and voters must approve the change in a statewide referendum.

“This is democracy in action,” said Rep. Edming. “I look forward to bringing democracy into the selection of the chief justice.”

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