



LETTER: Judicial selection process works

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The president of the Tennessee Bar Association has publicly urged that the Tennessee Judicial Selection Commission not be changed. The Memphis and Shelby County Bar Association has adopted a resolution urging that the commission not be changed.

The prestigious Brennan Center for Justice of New York University is preparing an in-depth study on merit selection of judges in the United States. Their conclusion is that elections are not a more effective means to achieve a diverse bench. They found that the facts in Tennessee supported merit selection to achieve a diverse bench.

Your May 5 editorial's position advocating the federal system ("Reform system for judicial picks") for choosing Tennessee's appellate judges and Supreme Court justices would introduce more politics into the selection process than currently exist. Take a hard look at the federal system where, due to partisan politics, there simply are not enough judges throughout the nation because the system is in gridlock.

The federal system would also eliminate nonpolitical individuals who are without political allies who want to be a judge. The current system in Tennessee gives this person a fair process to become a judge. The federal system does not.

The current system in Tennessee is accountable. Just look at the good judges that we have as a result of this system. Our selection system does not have the scandals or the elections driven by money from special interests. Nor does Tennessee have the rampant partisan politics of the federal system. We should keep this process without change.

C. Barry Ward

Member, Tennessee Judicial Selection Commission

Munford, Tenn.