

*WHEREAS, in Colorado's original constitution, adopted in 1876, the citizens of Colorado vested judicial power in the courts and the judges who preside over them; and*

*WHEREAS, courts of law safeguard the rights enshrined in the Bill of Rights, preserve the separation of powers, and uphold the state and federal constitutions; and*

*WHEREAS, Colorado's Constitution provides that courts of justice shall be open to every person, and that a speedy remedy afforded for every injury to person, property, character, and right, and that justice should be administered without sale, denial, or delay; and*

*WHEREAS, in 1966, after more than twenty years of effort by leaders of the bar, the citizens amended Colorado's constitution and created a system of judicial merit selection; and*

*WHEREAS, in Colorado, a lawyer aspiring to become a Colorado judge need not obtain the nomination of a political party, raise funds, campaign for office, or be elected in a partisan election; and*

*WHEREAS, no judge in Colorado may hold political office, make or receive campaign contributions, endorse political candidates, or participate in political campaigns; and*

*WHEREAS, judicial nominating commissions, comprised of both lawyers and lay persons of diverse political parties, review the qualifications of judicial candidates and forward nominees to the sitting governor for final selection; and*

*WHEREAS, judges remain accountable for their performance through citizen judicial performance commissions who make recommendations to the people before nonpartisan retention elections; and*

*WHEREAS, judges must comply with the Colorado Code of Judicial Conduct and are subject to the jurisdiction of the Colorado Commission on Judicial Discipline; and*

*WHEREAS, Colorado's system of merit selection has advanced the needs of the state, maintains the integrity and independence of the judiciary, and fosters the rule of law for all citizens;*

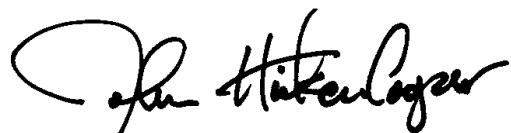
*Therefore, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the entire State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim, forever after, the period between November 8, 2016 and November 7, 2017, as the*

**50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF COLORADO'S  
JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION SYSTEM YEAR**

*in the State of Colorado.*

*GIVEN under my hand and the  
Executive Seal of the State of  
Colorado, this eighth day of  
November, 2016*



  
John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor