
**Judge your Judges. Vote
your judges**

www.ojpe.org

In our work, we all deserve to be judged on our skills and performance. Judges are no different. So our state developed a process to fairly evaluate each judge's work and report that back to voters. Voters can then make an informed decision when they vote. Go to: www.ojpe.org for the results of each judge's evaluation and find out which judges are on your ballot in 2016. **Citizens votes matters!**

Judicial evaluations are based on:

- courtroom observations,
- review of written decisions,
- submitted judge self-evaluation,
- an interview with the judge,
- case management reports, and
- survey responses from attorneys and non-attorneys who have experience before the judge.

A performance commission conducts the evaluation and makes a recommendation to voters about retention. They also provide voters information about the judge's experience and performance on the bench. Typically the recommendation comes from all 10 Commission members. Occasionally, a commissioner needs to not participate (recuse) and their vote on retention is not recorded. Voters can review commission recommendations and the results of the judicial performance surveys at www.ojpe.org.

Merit Selection, Judicial Performance, and Retention Elections

After Colorado voters approved a constitutional amendment adopting merit selection and retention elections for judges and justices in 1966, the Colorado General Assembly created Commissions on Judicial Performance (1988). These commissions provide voters recommendations for judges and justices seeking to keep their jobs in a retention election. Each Commission is made up of 4 attorneys and 6 non-attorneys appointed volunteers. Commissions in each of the 22 judicial districts evaluate district and county court judges. A State Commission evaluates Court of Appeal judges and Supreme Court justices. Prior to the election, commissions spend hours evaluating the overall performance of the judges on:

- integrity,
- legal knowledge,
- communication skills,
- judicial temperament,
- administrative performance, and
- service to the legal profession and the public.

For trial judges, a commission analyzes responses to surveys sent to:

- attorneys,
- appellate judges (district judges only),
- litigants,
- jurors,
- court employees,
- crime victims, and
- others who have appeared before the judge.

For appellate judges, the State Commission reviews survey responses from:

- attorneys,
- district judges, and
- other appellate judges.

An independent research company conducts the judicial performance surveys. The survey responses noted in each judge narrative reflects surveys from the time period of August 2014 through February, 2016. However, Commissions have reviewed not only the 2014/2016 survey results, but also mid-term survey responses collected during each judge's term of office. Responses to these surveys are used to identify trends in each judge's performance. Survey results for all judges standing for retention can be reviewed at www.ojpe.org. In some cases the results of the surveys responses do not add up to 100% because of rounding.

Information collected during the evaluation is the basis for a commission's recommendation to "retain" or "not retain" the judge. If the commission is equally divided (5-5) "no opinion" on retention is recorded. When a commission votes "do not retain" or "no opinion," the judge may provide a 100-word response that is published along with the commission's recommendation and narrative.

Voter's statewide vote for justices of the Colorado Supreme Court and judges of the Court of Appeals. Voters will vote only for the county court judges serving in their county and district judges serving in their judicial district. **Your vote matters.** Do your civic duty. Judge your judges, then go to the end of the ballot and **vote your judges.**

Additional information including complete survey results can be found online at: www.ojpe.org. Voters needing help finding information about judges on the ballot can call the Office of Judicial Performance at **303-928-7777**.