

JUDGING YOUR JUDGES

Judges are different from other elected officials; their role is to uphold the law, not represent voters. This difference can make it challenging to make decisions in a judicial election. To help you cast an informed vote, consider:



WHAT SHOULD YOU EXPECT FROM JUDICIAL CANDIDATES?

- ***Campaign conduct consistent with judicial rules and ethics***
- ***Impartiality***
- ***Commitment to the law, rather than public opinion***

WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR IN A JUDGE?

- ***Experience*** - demonstrated exposure to legal issues, and substantial & diverse experience with the justice system
- ***Integrity*** - high moral character, honesty, industry and diligence
- ***Professional Competence*** - intellect, knowledge of the law, writing & analytical ability, judgement, and courtroom & trial experience
- ***Judicial Temperament*** - unbiased, courteous, open-minded, understanding, fair and committed to the rule of law
- ***Service*** - demonstrated commitment to justice for all



www.abanet.org

INFORMING YOUR VOTE

Because judges are different from other elected officials, voters want reliable sources of specialized information. As always, voters should carefully evaluate the credibility of each information source. You may wish to consult the following for information on judicial elections:



STATE OR LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATIONS

To link to your bar association, go to:
<http://www.abanet.org/barserv/stlobar.html>

- ***Evaluate judicial candidates' professional qualifications***
- ***Publish voter guides***

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS STATE OR LOCAL CHAPTERS

<http://www.lwv.org> or [dnet.org](http://www.dnet.org)

- ***Sponsor candidate forums***
- ***Publish voter guides***

NEWSPAPERS

- ***Publish bar association recommendations***
- ***Provide coverage of elections***
- ***Publish relevant editorials***

CANDIDATE INTERNET SITES

STATE OR LOCAL BOARDS OF ELECTION

