Keeping Informed

Where to find information about judges in the State of Florida

Making an Informed Choice

Many people leave the ballot blank when it comes to voting for judges. Why? Because they do not know anything about the judicial candidate or how they should be evaluated. Judges have a unique function in our constitutional democracy. By researching judicial candidates using information provided by nonpartisan entities, voters may exercise an informed vote thus protecting fair and impartial courts.

Where to Look for Information

In order to make an informed vote, it is important to consult a variety of nonpartisan resources, free from political agendas or special interests. Talk to lawyers who may know judges or judicial candidates on the ballot. Check with voluntary bar associations in your area to review judicial polls and determine how attorneys have evaluated judges on the ballot. See resources below for examples.

The Florida Bar
http://www.floridabar.org

This resource provides:

- Voter information
- Attorney discipline records
- Poll results for judicial candidates
- Education programs and Speakers Bureau programs

Florida Supreme Court
http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/pub_info/jqc.shtm

This resource provides:

- The Code of Judicial Conduct
- Current JQC cases against Florida State Judges
- Archived videos of disciplinary proceedings

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BENCHMARKS

FLORIDA

VOTERS

FAIR JUDGES

JUSTICE FREE FROM SPECIAL INTERESTS
What to Look For

In order to make an informed choice, it is critical to understand how judges are different from other elected officials, the methods by which judges and justices are selected in Florida, and the role of judges in our constitutional system. By consulting a variety of nonpartisan sources that address these topics, voters can feel prepared to make an informed and reasoned decision!

Judicial Qualifications Commission
http://www.floridajqc.com/

- Authorized under the Florida Constitution to investigate judicial misconduct.
- A link to current JQC cases under review

Florida Supreme Court Justices
http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/justices/index.shtml

- Justice biographies and information
- Merit Retention of Justices
- Oral Arguments

National Association of Women Judges Florida
http://ivp.nawj.org/state/florida

- Judicial selection and retention in Florida
- Voting information including what to look for in judicial candidates
- Bios of Judges and Justices who will appear on the ballot

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BENCHMARKS

Informed Voters Fair Judges

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