

HOW TO FIND OUT ABOUT JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

The **League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund** works to educate voters on how to make independent, informed decisions about candidates for public office. However, it can be hard for the average person to decide among judicial candidates because most voters don't know much about them. This is because most citizens do not routinely interact with judges in their communities, so they tend to know very little about how judges conduct themselves in the course of doing their jobs. In addition, state rules do not allow judicial candidates to discuss their views on controversial issues because judges must be impartial on the bench; if they discuss their personal beliefs, they might appear to be prejudiced toward a particular viewpoint.

QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT A JUDICIAL CANDIDATE:

- As an attorney, has the candidate handled a variety of cases such as tax law, divorce, etc.?
- If the candidate is a judge, has he/she presided over a variety of trials?
- What is the opinion of practicing attorneys and/or the local bar association regarding the candidate?
 - Is the candidate considered impartial?
 - Does the candidate possess a deep commitment to the law?

INFORMATION SOURCES:

To learn about candidates for judge in your area, read their campaign literature, attend candidates' forums or invite them to speak to your group or organization. Talk to people who know the candidates, such as your attorney. Local bar associations or local League of Women Voters organizations can provide nonpartisan information about candidates. Finally, many web sites provide useful voter information on Ohio judicial races, a few of which are outlined below. Please call the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund at **(800) LWV-OHIO (598-6446)** if you have any questions on the information presented herein.

Web Site Source

www.dnet.org **League of Women Voters Education Fund, Washington DC**
Issue statements, biographies, endorsements, and contact information for federal, state and local candidates throughout the US.

www.lwvohio.org **League of Women Voters of Ohio**
Voters' Guides for state races, links to web sites of local Leagues for facts on local races, and County Boards of Elections telephone numbers.

www.ohiojudges.org **Ohio Judicial Conference**
Provides a Citizen Guide Brochure to include an overview of Ohio's court system and legal terminology. Website includes links to elected judges.

www.state.oh.us/sos **Ohio Secretary of State**
"Candidate Profiles" link: profiles and position statements of candidates for Justice and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio. "Boards of Elections Directory" link: addresses and telephone numbers for county Boards of Elections.

www.ohioabar.org **Ohio State Bar Association**
"Ohio Metro Areas" link: local Bar Association listings.