

# 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.shtml](http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/pub_info/jqc.shtml)



This resource provides:

The Code of Judicial Conduct

Current JQC cases against Florida State Judges

Archived videos of disciplinary proceedings



Provided by:



## Judicial Qualifications Commission

<http://www.floridajqc.com/>



This resource provides:

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>



This resource provides:

Justice biographies and information

Merit Retention of Justices

Oral Arguments

## National Association of Women Judges Florida

<http://ivp.nawj.org/state/florida>



This resource provides information on:

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

## 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!



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