



FLORIDA FAMILY ACTION

FLORIDA VOTER

JUDICIAL ELECTION GUIDE

2024 FLORIDA ELECTIONS GENERAL

MERIT RETENTION OF APPELLATE COURT JUDGES

FLORIDA SUPREME COURT

BALLOT QUESTION FOR SUPREME COURT:

“Shall Justice _____ of the Supreme Court be retained in office?”



Renatha Francis



Meredith Sasso

DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS (DCA)

BALLOT QUESTION FOR ALL DCA RETENTION VOTES:

“Shall Judge _____ of the _____ District Court of Appeal be retained in office?”

1st DCA



Stephanie Ray



Bradford L. Thomas



M. Kemmerly Thomas

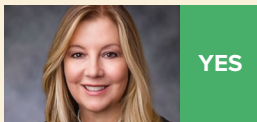
3rd DCA



Kevin M. Emas



Ivan F. Fernandez



Norma Shepard Lindsey

5th DCA



Joe Boatright



Eric Eisnaugle



Harvey Jay



Paige Kilbane

6th DCA



Paetra Brownlee



Roger Gannam

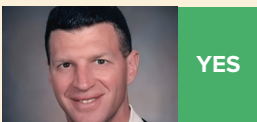


Joshua Mize



Jared Smith

2nd DCA



Anthony K. Black



Edward C. LaRose



Susan H. Rothstein-Youakim

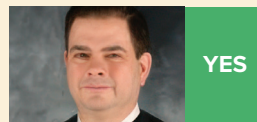
4th DCA



Burton C. Connor



Jeffrey T. Kuntz



John Maclver



Jordan Pratt



Adrian G. Soud

CIRCUIT COURT			ELECTED TRIAL COURT JUDGES				
COUNTIES	CIRCUIT	GROUP	NAME	COUNTIES	CIRCUIT	GROUP	NAME

Pasco, Pinellas	6	14	Jenn Dubbeld	Orange, Osceola	9	15	Alicia Peyton
-----------------	---	----	--------------	-----------------	---	----	---------------

COUNTY COURT			ELECTED TRIAL COURT JUDGES			
COUNTY	GROUP	NAME	COUNTY	GROUP	NAME	

BREVARD	6	Clarissa Harrell	LEON	4	Robert Churchill
		Margaret Wagner	MIAMI-DADE	29	Alina Salcines Restrepo
BROWARD	10	Samuel Ford Stark	PALM BEACH	2	Jean Marie Middleton
CHARLOTTE	1	Kathryn Wallace	PUTNAM	1	Anne Marie Gennusa
DUVAL	9	Matt Lufrano			



SELECTING JUDGE CANDIDATES

OUR RATING METHODOLOGY FOR PICKING TRIAL COURT JUDGES

Finding the best judicial candidate is more complicated and dynamic than picking elected officials for legislative races. In most elections, the main issue is, “Will the candidate vote for conservative policies?” However, the same cannot be asked when electing good Trial Court judges. *Ideally, a good trial judge will also have qualifications like an even-handed temperament, a strong intellect, jury trial experience, a sense of fairness, and a good reputation in the legal community.*

For instance, consider two judicial candidates: one claims to be a Christian and appears to have a conservative judicial philosophy, while the other does not attend church and appears to lean liberal. If the first candidate has been disciplined by the bar, lacks legal experience, has never tried cases, has a poor reputation, or is angered easily, then that candidate is probably not the best person to serve as a judge, especially if another otherwise highly qualified, though left-leaning, alternative exists.

While having a conservative judicial philosophy is always important, it is far more critical that Appellate and Supreme Court judges possess it than do lower Trial Court judges. This is true because if lower court judges behave as activists and insert their views in place of the law, they can usually have their rulings overturned by appellate courts.

These are just some of the considerations we have used in evaluating which Circuit Court and County Court judicial candidates that we have endorsed or rate as “acceptable.”

In evaluating judicial candidates, our team researched campaign websites, news articles, disciplinary records, church/synagogue affiliations, Florida Bar Judicial Candidate Statements and social media. We also interviewed local lawyers who know and work with these candidates to determine their reputation in the community. Often, we discover the differences between judicial candidates are too hard to compare and distinguish because they are either both very mediocre, or both equally qualified.

E Our **ENDORSEMENT rating (E)** indicates we have a high confidence level that the candidate is the *best* judicial candidate among the other choices listed on the ballot.

A Our **ACCEPTABLE rating (A)** indicates one or more judicial candidate(s) who we prefer as better overall than the other candidate(s) running in the same race but who, for some reason, we cannot endorse. An Acceptable status may also indicate that two judicial candidates are too close in qualifications, experience, and philosophy to recommend one over the other.