

Why Should You Vote in Colorado Judicial Retention Elections?

When you receive your ballot or go to the polls this fall, don't ignore the section on judges. It's your chance to help ensure Colorado has a strong judiciary.

In 1966, Colorado approved a merit selection and retention system for judges. Our system, **free from the influence of money and partisan politics**, has thrived for over 50 years and ensures that Colorado judges are highly qualified, fair, and impartial.

In **judicial retention elections**, which occur every two years, Colorado voters decide whether a judge should remain in office for another term. Readily available information allows citizens to make informed choices about judges on the ballot (see below information on the voter **Blue Book** and the performance commissions' website).

WHY YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT:

- It gives you a voice as a citizen
- It ensures a judiciary of highly qualified, fair, and impartial public servants who are dedicated to providing equal justice for all
- It maintains our Colorado court system as nonpartisan and free of party politics

HOW OUR SYSTEM WORKS:

- Nonpartisan judicial nominating commissions make recommendations of qualified candidates to the governor
- The governor makes judicial appointments after careful consideration of the list of nominees
- Judges stand for retention in general elections (after a two-year provisional term and at regular intervals thereafter)

- To allow voters to make informed decisions, nonpartisan **judicial performance commissions** conduct extensive reviews of each judge's performance, including thorough surveys, in-court observation of the judge, and judge interviews. The commissions prepare summaries of their conclusions, and these summaries are provided in the voter **Blue Book** that is sent to every Colorado household (more information is available on the performance commissions' website, coloradojudicialperformance.gov)

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

- **Educate** yourself about the judges who are on the ballot by reviewing the voter **Blue Book** or the full survey reports online
- **Vote!**
- **Don't** leave the judicial retention portion of your ballot blank!
- **Volunteer** to serve on nominating and performance commissions at coloradojudicialperformance.gov

This information is provided by Our Courts (ourcourtscolorado.org), a nationally-recognized program of the Colorado Bar Association and the Colorado Judicial Institute whose nonpartisan presentations further public knowledge and understanding of the state and federal courts in Colorado. To schedule a presentation or to learn more, please contact Ashley Staab at 303-860-1115 or ourcourts@cobar.org.

