



THE MISSOURI BAR

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To All Circuit Clerks,

On Nov. 6, voters will go to the polls. Among the decisions Missourians will be asked to make is whether to retain the appellate judges whose names appear on the ballot. Enclosed are copies of the Voters' Guide for nonpartisan judges that may help voters in your part of the state cast an informed ballot in the 2018 judicial retention elections. Please make the enclosed copies available to courthouse visitors.

The Missouri Bar is notifying voters that local libraries and courthouses will have a limited supply of this brochure. The guide lists appellate judges selected under the Missouri Non-Partisan Court Plan who will be on the ballot this November. After each judge's name, you will find the vote tally of a specially appointed judicial performance review committee on whether or not they believe each judge substantially meets overall judicial performance standards. The brochure is a result of an intensive evaluation of the performance of each of the judges on the ballot by an independent, statewide 21-member committee.

The committee based its recommendations in part on an anonymous survey of lawyers who rated each judge's skills and qualifications. Lawyers rated judges on important areas such as their knowledge of the law, whether their opinions were clearly written, whether they adequately explained the basis of the court's decision, and whether they issued opinions in a timely manner. Lawyers' evaluations were converted into a numerical score between 1 and 5, with 1 being the poorest and 5 being the best. The committees also studied a selection of each judge's written opinions. There is no better source of unbiased and in-depth information about these judges.

The guide is provided as a public service. The Missouri Bar is tasked with alerting the public to the committee's work. Its purpose is to strengthen the state's judicial system by providing voters with useful information about judges' performance on the bench.

Thank you for your help with this project. If you would like additional copies, please contact me at 573-638-2251 or ffite@mobar.org. To read the complete review of each judge, visit www.YourMissouriJudges.org.

Sincerely,

Farrah Fite
Media Relations Director

JUDICIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE FINDINGS

The independent, statewide Judicial Performance Review Committee analyzes the performance of judges up for retention. The committee conducts its reviews based on whether or not a judge substantially meets overall judicial performance standards. Relevant information from a variety of sources is considered as part of the review process.

SUPREME COURT OF MISSOURI

Percentage of Committee Votes Judge
Substantially MEETS Overall Judicial
Performance Standards

W. Brent Powell 100% (20-0)
Mary R. Russell 100% (20-0)

MO. COURT OF APPEALS - EASTERN DISTRICT

Percentage of Committee Votes Judge
Substantially MEETS Overall Judicial
Performance Standards

Colleen Dolan 100% (20-0)
Lisa K. Page 100% (20-0)

MO. COURT OF APPEALS - SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Percentage of Committee Votes Judge
Substantially MEETS Overall Judicial
Performance Standards

Jeffrey W. Bates 100% (20-0)

MO. COURT OF APPEALS - WESTERN DISTRICT

Percentage of Committee Votes Judge
Substantially MEETS Overall Judicial
Performance Standards

Edward R. Ardini, Jr. 90% (18-2)

This pamphlet is a project of The Missouri Bar

This guide is a project of The Missouri Bar, which is tasked with sharing the independent committee's findings with the public. The Missouri Bar neither supports or opposes the election or retention of individual judges.

Paid for by The Missouri Bar | Sebrina Barrett, Executive Director | P.O. Box 119 | Jefferson City, MO 65102



KNOW YOUR JUDGES VOTE YOUR JUDGES

A Voters' Guide to Nonpartisan Judges Seeking Retention
in the Nov. 6, 2018 General Election

How can you know that a judge is, in fact, doing a good job?

Through the work of a Judicial Performance Review Committee, Missourians have access to in-depth analysis of the work being done by judges serving under Missouri's nonpartisan method of judicial selection and retention.

What is the Missouri Non-Partisan Court Plan?

The Missouri Plan, otherwise known as the Non-Partisan Court Plan, is a model for the nation. Proposed and adopted by Missouri voters in 1940, it continues to be right for the people of Missouri because it attracts high-quality judges in the least political way and ultimately gives the people the final say.

Judges who serve under this plan are nominated by judicial commissions and then selected by the governor. After their first 12 months on the bench and at the end of each term, nonpartisan judges must go before the voters in a retention election. To be retained, a judge must receive a majority vote.

Missouri Supreme Court judges, Appeals Court judges and trial court judges in the City of St. Louis, and in St. Louis, Jackson, Clay, Platte and Greene counties are selected under the Non-Partisan Court Plan.



OUT STATE
EDITION



See the full findings at
www.YourMissouriJudges.org

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