



# Judges 101

## Knowledge is Power.

According to a 2014 Ohio Fair Courts Alliance study, **63% of Ohioans did not vote for judges** because they felt that they did not have sufficient information about their candidates.



### Do Your Research

- ✓ The League of Women Voters: How to Select a Judicial Candidate provides background information on voting for judges.
- ✓ Judge4Yourself.com provides independent, non-partisan reviews of candidates on discrete criteria.
- ✓ Visit Cleveland.com leading up to Election Day for their judicial candidate endorsements. These endorsements often explain why one individual was chosen over the other, and the pros and cons of each candidate.

### Know the Rules

- ✓ Understand that judges are different from other candidates: Judges are not elected to represent the views of the people who vote for them.
- ✓ "Under state rules, judicial candidates may not in connection with cases, controversies, or issues that are likely to come before the court, make pledges, promises, or commitments that are inconsistent with the impartial performance of adjudicative duties." (League of Women Voters) Most candidates will decline to discuss their opinions on hot-button issues.

### Get Involved

- ✓ Attend local candidate forums and debates, which offer a platform for candidates running for judge to discuss topics of importance, their beliefs, and more.
- ✓ Understand why your vote on judicial candidates counts.