

26th Legislative District Democrats JUDICIAL Endorsement Questionnaire

Candidate _____

Position _____

Date _____

In judicial elections, the 26th LD Democratic Committee (26th LD Dems) seeks to endorse well qualified candidates with the education, experience, ability, and temperament to reach just decisions in the individual cases brought before them and who will also seek to make the justice system more understandable, accessible, and equitable for all. There is more than one way to reach these goals. The 26th LD Dems Elections Committee screens candidates for and makes endorsement recommendations to the 26th LD Dems membership. The Committee looks forward to learning your qualifications and goals for the court position you seek.

The 26th LD Dems may withdraw its endorsement of any judicial candidate it determines has acted in conflict with the answers provided during the screening process or it determines has violated the letter or the spirit of the Code of Judicial Conduct or the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Please do not change or delete questions. Instead, respond N/A (not applicable) to questions that aren't relevant to position sought. As this form is a Word document, you can use more or less space to answer each question. But be judicious; the committee has no more time to read lengthy, rambling arguments than you do.

1. What are your reasons for seeking this position; why do you want this job?
2. What are your qualifications for seeking this office?
3. If your past legal practice has emphasized either civil or criminal law, how will you prepare to hear and decide the other kind of case and demonstrate to litigants that you can competently do so?
4. What are the most important issues for the jurisdiction you would serve or for the court you seek to join?
5. What are your campaign's most important themes, issues, or priorities (no more than five)?

6. Why should the 26th LD Dems support you for this position?

7. How would you describe Democratic Party values? If you hold any of those values, how have you demonstrated them?

8. Please list any key endorsements (you may attach an additional page).

9. What is your overall campaign budget?

10. How many votes do you need to win this election?

11. Have you been rated for this position by a Bar Association, either in this election or a prior one?

12. Has any professional or disciplinary body made a finding that you violated any rule or code of judicial or professional conduct? If so, please provide a full explanation.

13. Do you have support within the legal community? If so, how is that support demonstrated?

14. To what Bar groups do you belong now or have belonged to in the past?

15. When in law school did you participate in a bar review publication? Upon graduation, what was your class rank?

16. Do you participate in any bar association special interest section?

17. Beginning with your first year of law school and continuing to now, how have you supported pro bono or low-cost legal services?

18. Do you have a judicial philosophy? If so, what is it?

19. How is being a judge different than being a lawyer, if it is?

IF ELECTED TO THIS POSITION.....

1. How would you educate and inform the public about your court and the justice system?

2. What would you do to provide greater access to the judicial system for people involved in civil law disputes but who don't have enough money to pursue them in court?

3. If you think that the judicial system improperly treats certain groups or classifications differently or produces different results for those groups or classifications, what would you do to remedy that problem?

4. Do you think there is a problem with the way in which legal financial obligations or other costs and fines are currently imposed on criminal defendants? If so, what would you do to remedy that problem?

5. Do you support or oppose alternatives to criminal prosecution, such as drug courts, mental health courts, diversion programs, etc.? What changes would you make, if any?

6. What would you do to address any other social justice issues?

7. How would you approach any caseload or court congestion issues?

8. Is there anything else you would like to share with the Committee?

