

ELECTING JUDGES IN NEW YORK STATE:

YOU CAN BE AN INFORMED VOTER



INDEPENDENT JUDICIAL ELECTION QUALIFICATION COMMISSIONS

For more information about
**New York's Independent Judicial Election Qualification
Commissions**, including candidate ratings
and IJEQC regional office contacts, visit
ny-ijeqc.org/ or call:

212-340-0572

(Manhattan or the Bronx)

347-401-9248

(Richmond, Kings, Queens,
Nassau, Suffolk,
Westchester, Dutchess,
Orange, Rockland
and Putnam counties)

518-285-8571

(3rd, 4th and 6th Judicial
Districts—including Albany,
Saratoga and Binghamton)

585-530-3225

(5th, 7th and 8th Judicial
Districts—the Buffalo-
Rochester-Syracuse region)

(see inside map)

**An educated, voting public promotes public confidence
in the judicial system.**

ABOUT THE INDEPENDENT JUDICIAL ELECTION QUALIFICATION COMMISSIONS (IJEQCS)

Under the New York State Constitution, most judges in the state courts are **elected**. It is up to you, as a voter, to select the candidates you determine are best qualified to serve as judges. Informed voting is a critical part of the judicial election process. An educated, voting public promotes public confidence in the judicial system.

Frequently, voters are unsure about who to vote for because they do not have information about the qualifications of the candidates. The Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commissions (IJEQCs) were established in 2007 to rate the candidates in order to help voters make more informed choices about the individuals running for judge in New York State's trial courts. Candidates' participation in the Commission evaluation process is voluntary.

The Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commissions (IJEQCs) evaluate the qualifications of candidates seeking elective judicial office in all 13 judicial districts throughout the state (see map) for the following courts:

- Supreme Court
- County Court
- Surrogate's Court
- City Court
- NYC Civil Court
- District Court
- Family Court (outside NYC)

The IJEQCs evaluate both sitting judges running for re-election and attorneys seeking to become a judge to ensure that they possess the qualities necessary for effective judicial performance. In addition, the IJEQCs announce local judicial vacancies to be filled by election.



HOW JUDICIAL CANDIDATES ARE EVALUATED

Upon receiving a candidate's application, IJEQC members investigate the background and qualifications of the candidate. As part of that investigation, IJEQC members speak to references, attorneys who have appeared before judges seeking re-election and other relevant members of the community; review the applicant's professional writings; and usually conduct a personal interview with the candidate. All proceedings conducted by the IJEQC and all papers filed with them are kept confidential.

Judicial candidates evaluated by the IJEQC are rated "qualified" or "not qualified"; a "qualified" rating is valid for three years (in the absence of any new information that may have a negative effect on that individual's qualifications and/or background), while candidates found "not qualified" are considered not qualified for that judicial office for one year from the date of submission of the candidate's application to the IJEQC. You can find candidate ratings online at: ny-ijeqc.org

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

About two weeks before the general election in November, you can find biographical information provided by judicial candidates in the online Voter's Guide, at: www.nycourts.gov/vote

The Voter's Guide also contains the ratings issued by the IJEQCs.