

**Kentucky
Candidate
Information
Survey**



JUDICIAL SURVEY 2018

Each judicial candidate pledges to keep an open mind and carry out their adjudicative duties faithfully and impartially if elected.

Each candidate also recognizes their overarching obligation to apply and uphold the law, without regard to his or her personal views.

<p>No statement should be interpreted as a pledge, promise, or commitment in connection with any case, controversy, or issue likely to come before the court.</p>		<p align="center">KY Circuit Court District 14, Division 2</p> <p align="center">Jimmy Brannon</p> <p align="center"><i>No Website Provided</i></p>	
<p>Education</p>	<p>Graduate, Bourbon County High School 1978 University of Kentucky 1982 University of Kentucky Law School 1985 Law Journal. Moot Court Board</p>		<p align="center">NO PHOTO</p>
<p>Current Occupation</p>	<p>General Practice Attorney: Offices in Paris and Carlisle, Kentucky. Practice Includes criminal and civil practice in Circuit and District Courts and other courts.</p>		
<p>Family</p>	<p>Married to Denise Massey Brannon; Daughter, Sarah Brannon, 3rd year college; step daughter, Keli Tucker and a deceased son, Patrick Brannon (1993-2007).</p>	<p>James Cam Cantrill III</p>	<p align="center">CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE</p>
<p>Legal Background / Experience</p>	<p>Practice includes a wide experience in criminal law (3 murder trial acquittals and many other successful criminal and civil verdicts,) bankruptcy practice, social security disability, hundreds of wills and probate cases, hundreds of divorce and juvenile court cases, Legal Counsel for City of Millersburg since 1991, Successful Supreme Court case.</p>	 <p align="center">Brian Privett</p>	<p align="center">CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE</p>
<p>What do you consider the greatest accomplishment of your legal career? Why? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>I've tried serious cases. Few lawyers have successfully handled serious cases in as many different areas of law. For several years I was a single parent and caretaker of my son who endured three years of cancer treatments. My biggest accomplishment was maintaining and excelling at my practice under adversity.</p>		 <p align="center">Perry Ryan</p>
<p>To what extent have you practiced in the area of criminal law? Family law? Complex civil litigation? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>I've successfully handled hundreds of cases in criminal courts, family law, juvenile courts, bankruptcy courts, served as a master commissioner for several years, handled municipal law issues for 27 years. I've successfully tried will contests, real estate and contract issues and have a few personal injury settlements.</p>		<p align="center">CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE</p>
<p>What forms of voluntary professional and community service have you been involved with in the past? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>I have in the past been a member of various civic clubs including the Jaycees, Lions Club, Civitan.</p>		

By sharing how each candidate describes themselves, their qualifications, and judicial philosophy, the KCIS Judicial Survey is bringing light to the area voters are often least informed about. Thus, improving 1) voter knowledge; 2) voter participation; and 3) the quality of the democratic process.

KCIS is a non-partisan project of the Family Trust Foundation of Kentucky.

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Jimmy Brannon

No Website Provided

**KY Circuit Court
District 14, Division 2**

What are the major influences in your life? Why?
(50 words or less)

My mother who lived to be 91 died earlier this year, was active and working until age 90 and was very respected for her work ethic and strong will. My son, Patrick Brannon, for his courage in fighting a childhood cancer until his death at age 13 in 2007.

NO PHOTO

Are there any specific types of cases in which you know now you would find it necessary to recuse yourself?
(50 words or less)

I have represented thousands of persons in my community over the years and I would want to ensure that prior representation of those persons did not create a conflict in an individual case, but I am not aware of any "types of cases" that would occasion a potential conflict.

James Cam Cantrill III

CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE

In the last 10 years, which of the following organizations have you been a member, contributed money, volunteered time, been employed by, been endorsed by for a campaign, received money from for a campaign, or had any other affiliation?

Church of the Annunciation



Brian Privett

CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE

Some judges practice a philosophy of restraint, believing that judges must interpret the law strictly rather than seek to make new laws. Others develop a philosophy of activism, using the bench to enact social and political change. Please explain your approach.
(50 words or less)

Circuit Court is mostly a trial court and does not routinely involve this philosophical issue. However, separation of powers suggests that courts should use restraint, but while judges should not substitute their own personal philosophies for the law, courts should also not be deaf and blind to injustice.



Perry Ryan

CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE

Some judges believe that courts should read the Constitution expansively and should not limit themselves to what is explicitly stated. Others believe the courts should not reinterpret the Constitution. Please explain your approach.
(50 words or less)

The constitution, itself, should be given deference as a starting point. Social media, nano physics, air, space travel could not have been contemplated in 1787. The philosophy of the constitution has to be considered along with the literal words. There has to be a balance between philosophy and facts.



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<p>Some judges believe that courts should interpret the Constitution as the framers intended. Others believe that the Constitution must grow and adapt to new circumstances. Please explain your approach. (50 words or less)</p>	<p>The general philosophies embodied in the constitution...limits on the power of government, separation of powers, rights reserved to the people, etc....should be protected and preserved. How those philosophies may apply to changing circumstances is a matter courts may interpret on a case by case basis.</p>	<p>James Cam Cantrill III</p>	<p>NO PHOTO</p>
<p>What is your general judicial philosophy? (75 words or less)</p>	<p>The questionnaire explored broader judicial philosophy but in Circuit Court there are day to day considerations: Keeping dockets controlled, making timely decisions, working with clerks, fairness to litigants and understanding the demands of counsel, including public defenders, which I have been one for much of my career. I believe the Courts are the one place in government where all people of whatever background must be able to approach with the full expectation of fairness.</p>	<p>CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE</p>	
<p>Which of the current/recent Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court MOST reflects your judicial philosophy and why? Which LEAST reflects it and why? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>In practice, I "like" opinions supporting my position and dislike those which don't. That doesn't mean that I agree with the opinion. I don't like the politicization of the Court because I think it destroys the integrity of the court and therefore I probably like the "swing" justices</p>	<p>Brian Privett</p>	<p>CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE</p>
<p>What do you see as the most important issue facing Kentucky's judiciary? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>In terms of societal pressure, clearly, the drug epidemic and the effect on courts is immense; finding ways to protect the public while encouraging rehabilitation. As to the judiciary, itself, a major challenge is to protect the integrity and independence of the Courts, especially in today's seemingly embittered environment.</p>	<p>Perry Ryan</p>	
<p>What do you perceive as the greatest obstacles to justice, if any? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>I hate to be repetitive but I am deeply concerned about the acrimonious political climate we seem to be in today. I hate to see this invade the judicial system, especially at "trial court" levels where partisanship truly should have no place.</p>	<p>CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE</p>	
<p>What steps will you take as a judge to ensure that the rule of law is uniformly applied without passion or prejudice? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>I would treat those before the Court fairly and impartially. Honestly, appearances are often as important as acts, and in that vein, the election process itself is important. I believe every effort has to be made to ensure the integrity and independence of the process is free from outside influence</p>		

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<p>While serving on the bench, do you believe you have a role in bringing important legal or judicial issues before the public or the legislature? Why or why not? What should your role be? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>I think if the Judge has knowledge of issues that need to be improved.... case loads in certain courts.... funding for court personnel, etc that may improve the administration of justice....it should not be improper to voice those sentiments to the appropriate legislative entities.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>CANDIDATES CHOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE</p> </div>
<p>What makes you the best qualified candidate for this position? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>A. 32 years experience actually trying serious cases in Circuit Courts, and in many different areas of practice. B. Independence from outside/political interests is a paramount concern. C. Common sense and an understanding of the people of the Circuit. Proven academic ability with understanding and a sense of humor.</p>	
<p>Is there anything else you would like the voter to know? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>I have served in elective office (Paris City Council) for 8 years; Published a book (about my son's journey with childhood cancer); Worked since childhood in my family's newspaper business. Most importantly, people who know me I believe conclude that I am capable, honest, independent and have common sense.</p>	

Overview of Kentucky's Court System

Supreme Court

Basic Info: The Supreme Court is the state court of last resort and the final interpreter of Kentucky law. Seven justices sit on the Supreme Court and all seven justices rule on appeals before the court.

Cases Handled: Appeals involving the death penalty, life imprisonment or imprisonment for 20 years or more go directly from Circuit Court to the Supreme Court. All other appeals must first be heard by the Court of Appeals, except those so exceptional that the Supreme Court will grant a request to bypass the Court of Appeals.

Term: District judges serve four-year terms.



Court of Appeals

Basic Info: Fourteen judges, two elected from each of the seven appellate districts, serve on the Court of Appeals and are divided into panels of three to review and decide cases, with the majority deciding the outcome.

Cases Handled: With a few exceptions, most cases appealed from Circuit Court go to the Court of Appeals. The case is not retried at the appeals level. Instead, the original trial record is reviewed, with attorneys presenting the legal issues to the court for a decision.

Term: Court of Appeals judges serve eight-year terms.



Circuit Courts

Note: Family Court is a division of Circuit Court that hears only cases involving families and children.

Cases Handled: Can hear all types of cases unless the General Assembly has given exclusive jurisdiction of particular kinds of cases to another court to handle, such as District Court. Circuit Court hears civil matters involving more than \$5,000, capital offenses and felonies, divorces, adoptions, termination of parental rights, land dispute title problems and contested probates of will. It also has the power to issue injunctions and writs of prohibition and mandamus to compel or prohibit acts, and to hear appeals from District Court and administrative agencies.

Term: Circuit judges serve eight-year terms.



District Courts

Cases Handled: Hears juvenile matters, city and county ordinances, traffic offenses, probates of will, felony preliminary hearings, civil cases involving \$5,000 or less, guardianship, conservatorship, voluntary or involuntary commitment, child abuse and neglect, and domestic violence.

Term: District judges serve four-year terms.