

**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>KY District Court District 24, Division 2</p> <p>Howe E. Baker David Brett Butcher</p> <p><i>No Website Provided</i></p>	
<p>Education</p>	<p>Bachelor of Science, Northern Ky University Juris Doctorate, Chase College of Law</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE</p> </div>
<p>Current Occupation</p>	<p>Attorney</p>	
<p>Family</p>	<p>2 sons</p>	
<p>Legal Background / Experience</p>	<p>Practicing law as a trial attorney for <u>28</u> years.</p>	
<p>What do you consider the greatest accomplishment of your legal career? Why? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>To have helped and served those in need.</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>16 years as prosecutor, 6 years as public defender. 22 years in family law.</p>	
<p>What forms of voluntary professional and community service have you been involved with in the past? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>Legal Aid Pro bono work</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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<p>What are the major influences in your life? Why? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>My son, my friends and my career. My son Adam is in the U.S. Army, serving as a Green Beret, on his 3rd deployment.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE</p> </div>
<p>Are there any specific types of cases in which you know now you would find it necessary to recuse yourself? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>Some Family Court DNA cases.</p>	
<p>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?</p>	<p>National Rifle Association (NRA)</p>	
<p>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)</p>	<p>Interpret the law as written.</p>	
<p>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)</p>	<p>Interpret Constitution as written.</p>	

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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>Interpret Constitution as drafted by its framers. No more, no less.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE</p> </div>
<p>What is your general judicial philosophy? (75 words or less)</p>	<p>Enforce the law.</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>All conservatives.</p>	
<p>What do you see as the most important issue facing Kentucky's judiciary? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>Fairness and experienced judges.</p>	
<p>What do you perceive as the greatest obstacles to justice, if any? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>Wealth.</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>Treat all parties fairly, without regard to who they are.</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>When necessary and the public will benefit.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE</p> </div>
<p>What makes you the best qualified candidate for this position? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>Practicing trial attorney for 28 years. Served as prosecutor for 16 years. Served as Directing Attorney for Public Def. for 6 years. Have private practice for 22 years. I have put my time in. Deserve the position.</p>	
<p>Is there anything else you would like the voter to know? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>Vote for a <u>Baker</u>. Not a Butcher.</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.