

**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>NO PHOTO PROVIDED</p>	<p>KY District Court District 46, Division 2</p> <p>Steven Crebessa Zanda Myers</p> <p><i>No Website Provided</i> www.ZandaMyers4Judge.com</p>	
<p>Education</p>	<p>Undergraduate Degree from Western Kentucky University and law degree from University of Louisville</p>	<p>University of Maryland-Bachelors in Science, 1995 Oklahoma City University -Master in Criminal Justice Administration, 1997 University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law - Juris Doctor, 2003.</p>	
<p>Current Occupation</p>	<p>Assistant County Attorney and I maintain a private practice</p>	<p>Zanda is presently employed as a prosecutor in Grayson County, Kentucky. She also maintains a small private practice handling civil litigation.</p>	
<p>Family</p>	<p>Married to Amy Pike Crebessa for 27 years. Three children, Ashley, Amber and Rachel. Two grandchildren, Mason and Riley</p>	<p>Zanda is a mother to three children: Koda, Katie and Danny. She is married to Dan Myers. Her parents are Wes and Vickie Gillock.</p>	
<p>Legal Background / Experience</p>	<p>Served as District Judge, Asst. Commonwealth's Attorney, Domestic Relations Commissioner, Trial Commissioner, Master Commissioner, Asst. County Attorney and City Attorney</p>	<p>Zanda has nearly fifteen years experience as a trial attorney. She has worked in civil litigation, criminal defense and criminal prosecution. She has handled every sort of matter that is decided in district courts in Kentucky. She is a member of the KBA, Grayson County Bar, and U.S. District Court.</p>	
<p>What do you consider the greatest accomplishment of your legal career? Why? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>Successfully argued before the Kentucky Supreme Court in <i>Bye v. Mattingly</i>, 975 S.W. 2d 451, to establish that a "disabled person" is capable of executing a valid will. Made new law in Kentucky.</p>	<p>Having worked in Dependency, Neglect and Abuse Court, the greatest accomplishment in my legal career was prosecuting a parent addicted to drugs who then went on to make positive changes in her life in order to become a better parent for her child.</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>Have been a prosecutor the majority of my 27 year career. I have handled hundreds of divorce/custody cases and served as Domestic Relations Commissioner for over 6 years. I have handled a substantial number of civil cases, including trials.</p>	<p>Criminal Law- 8 years as a prosecutor, 3 years as a criminal defense attorney. Family Law- 11 years experience in divorce, custody and adoptions. Complex Civil Litigation-Nearly 15 years in complex civil litigation to include medical malpractice, personal injury, employment law, wills and estate litigation and contract 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>President and officer of Flahery Ballpark, attorney and board member for Meade County Habitat for Humanity, founding board member of Tri-County CASA, PTO Officer, coach of various youth sports. Provide legal services to churches and non-profits at no cost.</p>	<p>I have volunteered free legal services through the LBA as well as locally in Grayson County. I am a member of the Twin Lakes Professional Women's Organization and the Grayson County Homemakers, both of which focus on projects to improve Grayson County. I have also coached children in 4H.</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 parents, both retired military, taught me to work hard and never give less than 100%. I try to follow that example in everything I do.</p>	<p>My mother grew up in poverty with ten siblings. My father grew up in a blue collar, working class family. Neither one of them allowed their situation in life to define the person they would become. Their determination and hard work has been a major influence on my life.</p>	
<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>No</p>	<p>No.</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><i>Candidate chose to leave blank.</i></p>	<p>Chamber of Commerce</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>The District Court should follow the law as closely as possible. The appellate courts are the proper places to enact social and political change.</p>	<p>It is the duty of the judiciary to interpret and apply the law to cases, not create new laws. Those laws should be strictly interpreted. Laws created by the legislature should be upheld so long as they do not infringe upon the US Constitution.</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>I believe the District Court should follow the precedents set by appellate courts without expanding or contracting the current state of the law.</p>	<p>The Constitution is the law of the land. It should not be infringed upon by any other law restricting its application. Nor should it be expanded upon to create new laws that have not been specifically adopted by the legislature.</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><i>No Website Provided</i></p> <p>We have to adapt for new circumstances as there are situations today that the framers could not comprehend. But again, that is for the appellate courts to decide.</p>	<p>www.ZandaMyers4Judge.com</p> <p>The intent of the framers of the US Constitution was the design by which this country was to follow. While there may be technological changes and other advances in industry, we must hold fast to the intent of the Constitution which founded our country.</p>	
<p>What is your general judicial philosophy? (75 words or less)</p>	<p>Everyone should be treated the same by the court. I also believe the court, while not giving legal advise to citizens, should be more helpful in assisting people before the court. People who are in court every day forget that most people are not and they do not understand what is happening in court. The court procedures can be better explained to the participants.</p>	<p>Both sides absolutely must have an opportunity to present their evidence and argument. A judge must then fairly decide the case based upon an application of the law to the evidence presented. Judges should remain fair, unbiased and courteous to all people who come before the court. However, it is also necessary for a judge to exercise common sense and compassion to people who have been adjudged to have suffered a loss or been victimized.</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><i>Candidate chose to leave blank.</i></p>	<p>Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy has recognized that there is a line where the government should not infringe upon individuals. While I do not necessarily agree with every decision he has rendered, I agree with his ideas of limitations of government, particularly as it relates to the 2nd Amendment.</p>	
<p>What do you see as the most important issue facing Kentucky's judiciary? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>The current court system is not adaptable to new situations and problems. Lack of proper funding for support staff is critical.</p>	<p>One of the challenging issues facing Kentucky's judiciary is the battle between liberal and conservative legislatures potentially creating laws that infringe upon the personal liberties of its citizens. The Kentucky judiciary must be careful to not create new laws while striking down any laws created that infringe upon the Constitution.</p>	
<p>What do you perceive as the greatest obstacles to justice, if any? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>This cannot be completely answered in 50 words or less. But the perception is that "who you know" or "how much money you have" affects justice. Transparency in the courts would help alleviate this issue to a degree.</p>	<p>The biggest obstacle to justice is a lack of funding in Kentucky. For instance, there has been a movement to reduce the number of criminals incarcerated. However, there has also been a shortage of funds for the introduction of programs such as drug court in every court.</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 have no friends when I am on the bench. To the degree it can be done so by the Court, everyone will be treated the same regardless of circumstances.</p>	<p>I intend on hearing cases in their entirety and allowing both parties to put on their evidence to the court before rendering any decision. I am unconcerned with the surnames or popularity of decisions, but rather my focus is reaching the right decision based upon a correct application of law.</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>As judge you should always be looking to educate those who are willing to learn. Education about the legal systems, our rights and the workings of government in general should be a goal of all elected officials.</p>	<p>The role of judge is to fairly decide cases, not become an activist. I would certainly refrain from engaging in political activism which would thereby give the appearance of bias should cases involving similar issues come before me.</p>	
<p>What makes you the best qualified candidate for this position? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>I have served in this position before and did what I believe to be a very good job. I have served in judicial positions on numerous occasions in my career and I am the only candidate with actual judicial experience.</p>	<p>People often speak of a "jury of your peers" but never mention a "Judge of your peers." Many of the decisions made in district court do not involve juries. I happen to be an ordinary person who became educated and experienced in the law.</p>	
<p>Is there anything else you would like the voter to know? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>It is difficult for voters to know about a candidate or the type of job they may do. I encourage all voters to speak to the people they know in the court system or law enforcement and ask them what type of job I have done in the past.</p>	<p>As a former single parent, a former foster parent, and a former educator, I bring a perspective to the bench like no other judicial candidate in my district. These life experiences have fueled a common sense approach to legal dilemmas.</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.