

**Kentucky
Candidate
Information
Survey**



JUDICIAL SURVEY 2019

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.

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.



**District Court
Dist. 46, Div. 1**

zandamyers4judge.com

Zanda Lorene Myers

CHOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE:

Bradley Butler

Beth Ratley

Education	University of Louisville- Juris Doctor 2003 Oklahoma City University-Master in Criminal Justice Administration 1997 University of Maryland University College- Bachelor of Science 1995
Current Occupation	Staff Attorney with the Commonwealth of Kentucky
Family	I am married to Dan Myers. We have 3 children: Dakota, Kaitlyn and Danny Myers. I am the daughter of Wes & Vickie Gillock.
Legal Background / Experience	I have been a trial attorney for approximately 16 years. I have had jury trials in 7 different counties in Ky. I have jury trial experience in complex civil litigation, criminal prosecution and criminal defense. I have tried both felony and misdemeanor cases.
What do you consider the greatest accomplishment of your legal career? Why? (50 words or less)	I successfully defended a young mother who was ripped away from her family and jailed due to a false allegation. After months of investigation, discovery and motions, I was able to get the case dismissed. The prosecutor then was able to proceed against the party who made the false allegation.
To what extent have you practiced in the area of criminal law? Family law? Complex civil litigation? (50 words or less)	I have served as both a prosecutor and a defense attorney. I have also worked in the area of family law representing parties in domestic violence actions, divorce and child custody cases. I have jury trial experience in complex civil litigation including wrongful arrest, estate disputes, & medical malpractice.
What forms of voluntary professional and community service have you been involved with in the past? (50 words or less)	Monthly, I volunteer at an assisted living facility to provide recreation for elderly residents. I also volunteer with our local animal shelter. Yearly, I volunteer at our county fair yearly to accept county fair entries. I have also served as a 4H drill team leader for youth in my community.

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

My mother grew up in poverty with ten siblings. My father grew up in a blue-collar, working class family. Neither of them allowed their situation in life to define the person they would become. Their determination, family values, patriotism and hard work has been a major influence in my life.

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

No.

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?

Chamber of Commerce

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)

I believe it is not the duty of the judiciary to create new laws. Statutes should be interpreted literally. Activism belongs in the legislature, not the judiciary.

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 is the law of the land. It should not be infringed upon by any other law restricting its application. I am a proponent of originalism and believe that the Constitution should be interpreted as perceived at the time of enactment.

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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 Constitution should be interpreted as the framers intended as it embodies the very principles upon which our country was founded. I do not support the idea that the Constitution should be manipulated to the whims of those who would seek to change the strict construction of its text.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>CHOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE:</p> <p>Bradley Butler</p> <p>Beth Ratley</p> </div>
<p>What is your general judicial philosophy? (75 words or less)</p>	<p>Judges should be conservative in their application of the law to facts in a case. Neither the Constitution or statutes are meant to be altered or expanded by the judicial process. Put simply, the most important job of the judiciary is to be able to take facts and apply the law as written to those specific facts.</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>Though recently deceased, Justice Anthony Scalia most closely reflects my judicial philosophy. In Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992), Justice Scalia refused to read language into the Constitution requiring states to permit abortion on demand.</p> <p>Justice Breyer's judicial philosophy is least similar as he expands law beyond its text.</p>	
<p>What do you see as the most important issue facing Kentucky's judiciary? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>The most important issue facing Kentucky's judiciary is management of the opioid epidemic. Drugs have invaded this state and every single court is faced not only with criminal offenses but also the effects on families in neglect and abuse actions, estate actions and civil actions such as forcible detainers.</p>	
<p>What do you perceive as the greatest obstacles to justice, if any? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>The greatest obstacles to justice in Kentucky is a lack of funding. Specialty courts are not available statewide as a result of funding and at the district level there is not funding for a statewide probation and parole department to monitor defendants post-sentencing to ensure compliance with court terms.</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 vow to provide each person with due process so that they have an opportunity to present their case. I will not decide a case until the close of the evidence. I will simply view my role as applying the law as written to the facts.</p>	

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Zanda Lorene Myers

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)

No. I believe the role of a judge is to be independent, fair and unbiased. If a judge is an activist, then he cannot be unbiased as that directly conflicts with activism. There are lobbyist and plenty of activists who may bring issues before the public or the legislature.

CHOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE:

Bradley Butler

What makes you the best qualified candidate for this position?
(50 words or less)

I am conservative in my interpretation of the law. I am a strong supporter of the Constitution as it is written. I bring a wealth of experience as a trial lawyer who has served both defendants and the prosecution. I have handled every sort of case a District Judge hears.

Beth Ratley

Is there anything else you would like the voter to know?
(50 words or less)

I have a strong work ethic and can issue prompt decisions without unnecessary delay even while handling the high volume of cases that is heard in District Court. I know how to prioritize time while still giving each case the attention it deserves.

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: Supreme Court justices serve eight-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.