



Johnson County Bar Association Judicial Review

Tenth Judicial District – Johnson County District Court 2020 Judicial Evaluation Results

Overview

- The Johnson County Bar Association emailed surveys to 4,278 lawyers with registered offices in Johnson County.
- 415 surveys were returned and this quantity was above the number needed to achieve a 95% confidence level with a 5% margin of error, which are research industry standards. Therefore, these results are considered representative of the surveyed population.
- Lawyers were asked to evaluate judges with whom they had personal experience.
- Survey data was kept confidential and managed by a third party.

Retention results for judges appearing on the November 2020 ballot:

Judge Name	Yes – Should be retained	No – Should not be retained
Hon. Paul Burmaster	92%	8%
Hon. Brenda Cameron	83%	17%
Hon. J. Charles Droege	95%	5%
Hon. James Phelan	93%	7%
Hon. Thomas Sutherland	97%	3%
Hon. James Vano	89%	11%
Hon. Robert Wonnell	94%	6%

Full Survey Results

Comprehensive survey results for all Tenth Judicial District – Johnson County District Court judges follows.

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Hon. Jenifer Ashford – 44 responses

80% - Yes, should be retained

20% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Knowledge of the Law Applies relevant law; Knowledgeable of rules or procedures	44%	24%	11%	11%	9%
Communication Issues decisions that are clear and logical	47%	27%	13%	7%	7%
Judicial Temperament Courteous to counsel and litigants; Maintains order and civility in the courtroom	48%	27%	2%	9%	14%
Fairness and Impartiality Acts and rules impartially and free of any disposition, affiliation or influence	43%	23%	14%	11%	9%
Punctuality Begins hearings on time; Issues decisions in a timely manner	55%	32%	9%	2%	2%
Professionalism Reviews files and prepares prior to hearing	52%	32%	9%	2%	5%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	41%	32%	7%	14%	7%

Hon. Paul Burmaster – 71 responses

92% - Yes, should be retained

8% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Knowledge of the Law Applies relevant law; Knowledgeable of rules or procedures	41%	36%	11%	10%	1%
Communication Issues decisions that are clear and logical	59%	22%	12%	4%	3%
Judicial Temperament Courteous to counsel and litigants; Maintains order and civility in the courtroom	66%	20%	10%	1%	3%
Fairness and Impartiality Acts and rules impartially and free of any disposition, affiliation or influence	56%	26%	13%	4%	1%
Punctuality Begins hearings on time; Issues decisions in a timely manner	63%	24%	9%	3%	1%
Professionalism Reviews files and prepares prior to hearing	67%	21%	4%	4%	3%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	59%	26%	9%	6%	1%

Hon. Brenda Cameron – 77 responses

83% - Yes, should be retained

17% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Knowledge of the Law Applies relevant law; Knowledgeable of rules or procedures	55%	27%	9%	8%	1%
Communication Issues decisions that are clear and logical	58%	22%	13%	6%	1%
Judicial Temperament Courteous to counsel and litigants; Maintains order and civility in the courtroom	45%	25%	10%	14%	5%
Fairness and Impartiality Acts and rules impartially and free of any disposition, affiliation or influence	41%	26%	13%	15%	5%
Punctuality Begins hearings on time; Issues decisions in a timely manner	58%	24%	13%	5%	0%
Professionalism Reviews files and prepares prior to hearing	56%	23%	13%	8%	0%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	50%	21%	14%	13%	1%

Hon. J. Charles Droege – 92 responses

95% - Yes, should be retained

5% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Knowledge of the Law Applies relevant law; Knowledgeable of rules or procedures	48%	34%	10%	6%	2%
Communication Issues decisions that are clear and logical	53%	27%	15%	2%	3%
Judicial Temperament Courteous to counsel and litigants; Maintains order and civility in the courtroom	57%	24%	11%	5%	2%
Fairness and Impartiality Acts and rules impartially and free of any disposition, affiliation or influence	60%	24%	11%	2%	3%
Punctuality Begins hearings on time; Issues decisions in a timely manner	50%	30%	7%	6%	6%
Professionalism Reviews files and prepares prior to hearing	59%	24%	11%	3%	3%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	53%	33%	9%	3%	2%

Hon. Christina Dunn Gyllenborg – 105 responses

98% - Yes, should be retained

2% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Knowledge of the Law Applies relevant law; Knowledgeable of rules or procedures	78%	17%	4%	0%	1%
Communication Issues decisions that are clear and logical	81%	16%	2%	0%	1%
Judicial Temperament Courteous to counsel and litigants; Maintains order and civility in the courtroom	89%	9%	1%	0%	2%
Fairness and Impartiality Acts and rules impartially and free of any disposition, affiliation or influence	82%	11%	5%	1%	1%
Punctuality Begins hearings on time; Issues decisions in a timely manner	79%	10%	9%	1%	2%
Professionalism Reviews files and prepares prior to hearing	89%	7%	4%	0%	1%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	81%	16%	1%	1%	1%

Hon. Thomas Foster – 62 responses

87% - Yes, should be retained

13% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Knowledge of the Law Applies relevant law; Knowledgeable of rules or procedures	56%	25%	10%	8%	2%
Communication Issues decisions that are clear and logical	46%	25%	16%	10%	3%
Judicial Temperament Courteous to counsel and litigants; Maintains order and civility in the courtroom	54%	30%	10%	5%	2%
Fairness and Impartiality Acts and rules impartially and free of any disposition, affiliation or influence	52%	21%	16%	10%	2%
Punctuality Begins hearings on time; Issues decisions in a timely manner	49%	35%	14%	2%	0%
Professionalism Reviews files and prepares prior to hearing	62%	24%	13%	0%	2%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	48%	32%	10%	10%	0%

Hon. Neil Foth – 102 responses

91% - Yes, should be retained

9% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Knowledge of the Law Applies relevant law; Knowledgeable of rules or procedures	58%	30%	7%	3%	2%
Communication Issues decisions that are clear and logical	45%	36%	13%	5%	2%
Judicial Temperament Courteous to counsel and litigants; Maintains order and civility in the courtroom	44%	26%	18%	9%	3%
Fairness and Impartiality Acts and rules impartially and free of any disposition, affiliation or influence	52%	27%	12%	5%	4%
Punctuality Begins hearings on time; Issues decisions in a timely manner	60%	25%	8%	3%	4%
Professionalism Reviews files and prepares prior to hearing	58%	25%	11%	4%	2%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	49%	37%	8%	5%	2%

Hon. Paul Gurney – 138 responses

96% - Yes, should be retained

4% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Knowledge of the Law Applies relevant law; Knowledgeable of rules or procedures	75%	20%	2%	3%	1%
Communication Issues decisions that are clear and logical	75%	17%	3%	4%	1%
Judicial Temperament Courteous to counsel and litigants; Maintains order and civility in the courtroom	80%	16%	1%	2%	1%
Fairness and Impartiality Acts and rules impartially and free of any disposition, affiliation or influence	77%	16%	1%	4%	2%
Punctuality Begins hearings on time; Issues decisions in a timely manner	78%	15%	4%	3%	1%
Professionalism Reviews files and prepares prior to hearing	81%	16%	2%	0%	1%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	77%	16%	4%	3%	1%

Hon. David Hauber – 137 responses

88% - Yes, should be retained

12% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Knowledge of the Law Applies relevant law; Knowledgeable of rules or procedures	61%	25%	8%	4%	3%
Communication Issues decisions that are clear and logical	57%	25%	12%	2%	4%
Judicial Temperament Courteous to counsel and litigants; Maintains order and civility in the courtroom	40%	25%	18%	12%	5%
Fairness and Impartiality Acts and rules impartially and free of any disposition, affiliation or influence	52%	23%	14%	7%	4%
Punctuality Begins hearings on time; Issues decisions in a timely manner	67%	23%	6%	2%	2%
Professionalism Reviews files and prepares prior to hearing	63%	24%	7%	4%	2%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	50%	31%	12%	4%	3%

Hon. Michael Joyce – 127 responses

60% - Yes, should be retained

40% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Knowledge of the Law Applies relevant law; Knowledgeable of rules or procedures	40%	33%	13%	11%	3%
Communication Issues decisions that are clear and logical	30%	31%	13%	20%	7%
Judicial Temperament Courteous to counsel and litigants; Maintains order and civility in the courtroom	22%	20%	16%	17%	25%
Fairness and Impartiality Acts and rules impartially and free of any disposition, affiliation or influence	36%	22%	21%	14%	7%
Punctuality Begins hearings on time; Issues decisions in a timely manner	54%	34%	10%	1%	1%
Professionalism Reviews files and prepares prior to hearing	47%	32%	12%	6%	4%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	28%	24%	17%	20%	11%

Hon. Rhonda Mason – 123 responses

88% - Yes, should be retained

12% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Knowledge of the Law Applies relevant law; Knowledgeable of rules or procedures	28%	41%	19%	6%	6%
Communication Issues decisions that are clear and logical	32%	39%	17%	6%	6%
Judicial Temperament Courteous to counsel and litigants; Maintains order and civility in the courtroom	51%	30%	14%	2%	2%
Fairness and Impartiality Acts and rules impartially and free of any disposition, affiliation or influence	50%	29%	15%	2%	4%
Punctuality Begins hearings on time; Issues decisions in a timely manner	43%	32%	13%	6%	7%
Professionalism Reviews files and prepares prior to hearing	45%	37%	10%	3%	6%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	39%	35%	14%	7%	5%

Hon. Timothy McCarthy – 80 responses

94% - Yes, should be retained

6% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Knowledge of the Law Applies relevant law; Knowledgeable of rules or procedures	56%	24%	7%	6%	6%
Communication Issues decisions that are clear and logical	63%	23%	7%	2%	4%
Judicial Temperament Courteous to counsel and litigants; Maintains order and civility in the courtroom	77%	20%	0%	1%	2%
Fairness and Impartiality Acts and rules impartially and free of any disposition, affiliation or influence	61%	21%	7%	7%	4%
Punctuality Begins hearings on time; Issues decisions in a timely manner	76%	20%	2%	0%	2%
Professionalism Reviews files and prepares prior to hearing	72%	15%	9%	4%	1%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	62%	25%	6%	5%	2%

Hon. Keven O’Grady – 85 responses

89% - Yes, should be retained

11% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Knowledge of the Law Applies relevant law; Knowledgeable of rules or procedures	72%	21%	5%	2%	0%
Communication Issues decisions that are clear and logical	62%	21%	9%	5%	3%
Judicial Temperament Courteous to counsel and litigants; Maintains order and civility in the courtroom	53%	24%	7%	13%	3%
Fairness and Impartiality Acts and rules impartially and free of any disposition, affiliation or influence	56%	16%	15%	9%	3%
Punctuality Begins hearings on time; Issues decisions in a timely manner	75%	17%	7%	0%	1%
Professionalism Reviews files and prepares prior to hearing	75%	15%	7%	2%	1%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	63%	19%	10%	6%	2%

Hon. James Phelan – 58 responses

93% - Yes, should be retained

7% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Knowledge of the Law Applies relevant law; Knowledgeable of rules or procedures	60%	25%	10%	2%	3%
Communication Issues decisions that are clear and logical	59%	29%	8%	0%	3%
Judicial Temperament Courteous to counsel and litigants; Maintains order and civility in the courtroom	70%	22%	5%	0%	3%
Fairness and Impartiality Acts and rules impartially and free of any disposition, affiliation or influence	59%	27%	5%	5%	3%
Punctuality Begins hearings on time; Issues decisions in a timely manner	70%	20%	7%	2%	2%
Professionalism Reviews files and prepares prior to hearing	65%	20%	13%	0%	2%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	60%	26%	9%	2%	3%

Hon. Thomas Ryan – 81 responses

96% - Yes, should be retained

4% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Knowledge of the Law Applies relevant law; Knowledgeable of rules or procedures	70%	24%	2%	2%	1%
Communication Issues decisions that are clear and logical	68%	24%	2%	2%	2%
Judicial Temperament Courteous to counsel and litigants; Maintains order and civility in the courtroom	74%	21%	1%	2%	1%
Fairness and Impartiality Acts and rules impartially and free of any disposition, affiliation or influence	68%	23%	2%	5%	1%
Punctuality Begins hearings on time; Issues decisions in a timely manner	51%	21%	11%	10%	7%
Professionalism Reviews files and prepares prior to hearing	68%	27%	2%	1%	1%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	68%	24%	4%	2%	1%

Hon. Erica Schoenig – 83 responses

95% - Yes, should be retained

5% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Knowledge of the Law Applies relevant law; Knowledgeable of rules or procedures	64%	26%	7%	2%	0%
Communication Issues decisions that are clear and logical	70%	21%	5%	4%	0%
Judicial Temperament Courteous to counsel and litigants; Maintains order and civility in the courtroom	75%	18%	4%	2%	1%
Fairness and Impartiality Acts and rules impartially and free of any disposition, affiliation or influence	75%	15%	5%	4%	1%
Punctuality Begins hearings on time; Issues decisions in a timely manner	76%	17%	4%	2%	1%
Professionalism Reviews files and prepares prior to hearing	78%	14%	4%	2%	1%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	66%	27%	4%	2%	1%

Hon. Robert Scott – 93 responses

77% - Yes, should be retained

23% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Knowledge of the Law Applies relevant law; Knowledgeable of rules or procedures	34%	27%	15%	15%	9%
Communication Issues decisions that are clear and logical	39%	20%	18%	14%	9%
Judicial Temperament Courteous to counsel and litigants; Maintains order and civility in the courtroom	44%	23%	20%	5%	7%
Fairness and Impartiality Acts and rules impartially and free of any disposition, affiliation or influence	40%	22%	18%	15%	5%
Punctuality Begins hearings on time; Issues decisions in a timely manner	58%	19%	18%	2%	3%
Professionalism Reviews files and prepares prior to hearing	46%	20%	20%	8%	5%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	37%	25%	17%	14%	7%

Hon. Kathleen Sloan – 44 responses

80% - Yes, should be retained

20% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Knowledge of the Law Applies relevant law; Knowledgeable of rules or procedures	45%	32%	14%	9%	0%
Communication Issues decisions that are clear and logical	36%	32%	16%	16%	0%
Judicial Temperament Courteous to counsel and litigants; Maintains order and civility in the courtroom	27%	23%	16%	23%	11%
Fairness and Impartiality Acts and rules impartially and free of any disposition, affiliation or influence	32%	34%	9%	23%	2%
Punctuality Begins hearings on time; Issues decisions in a timely manner	27%	23%	14%	20%	16%
Professionalism Reviews files and prepares prior to hearing	41%	36%	9%	7%	7%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	32%	32%	20%	16%	0%

Hon. Thomas Sutherland – 107 responses

97% - Yes, should be retained

3% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Knowledge of the Law Applies relevant law; Knowledgeable of rules or procedures	67%	25%	5%	2%	1%
Communication Issues decisions that are clear and logical	66%	29%	4%	0%	1%
Judicial Temperament Courteous to counsel and litigants; Maintains order and civility in the courtroom	68%	26%	4%	0%	3%
Fairness and Impartiality Acts and rules impartially and free of any disposition, affiliation or influence	66%	23%	7%	2%	2%
Punctuality Begins hearings on time; Issues decisions in a timely manner	66%	29%	4%	0%	1%
Professionalism Reviews files and prepares prior to hearing	72%	23%	4%	1%	1%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	65%	28%	5%	1%	1%

Hon. James Vano – 133 responses

89% - Yes, should be retained

11% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Knowledge of the Law Applies relevant law; Knowledgeable of rules or procedures	49%	36%	8%	5%	2%
Communication Issues decisions that are clear and logical	48%	30%	13%	7%	2%
Judicial Temperament Courteous to counsel and litigants; Maintains order and civility in the courtroom	52%	32%	11%	4%	1%
Fairness and Impartiality Acts and rules impartially and free of any disposition, affiliation or influence	53%	29%	10%	6%	1%
Punctuality Begins hearings on time; Issues decisions in a timely manner	58%	34%	4%	2%	1%
Professionalism Reviews files and prepares prior to hearing	53%	32%	10%	4%	1%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	47%	34%	10%	7%	1%

Hon. Daniel Vokins – 107 responses

90% - Yes, should be retained

10% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Knowledge of the Law Applies relevant law; Knowledgeable of rules or procedures	62%	17%	14%	3%	4%
Communication Issues decisions that are clear and logical	64%	22%	6%	4%	4%
Judicial Temperament Courteous to counsel and litigants; Maintains order and civility in the courtroom	66%	22%	7%	2%	3%
Fairness and Impartiality Acts and rules impartially and free of any disposition, affiliation or influence	61%	20%	7%	8%	3%
Punctuality Begins hearings on time; Issues decisions in a timely manner	69%	26%	5%	0%	1%
Professionalism Reviews files and prepares prior to hearing	64%	18%	14%	3%	1%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	63%	20%	8%	6%	3%

Hon. Robert Wonnell – 118 responses

94% - Yes, should be retained

6% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Knowledge of the Law Applies relevant law; Knowledgeable of rules or procedures	57%	31%	9%	3%	0%
Communication Issues decisions that are clear and logical	54%	34%	9%	3%	0%
Judicial Temperament Courteous to counsel and litigants; Maintains order and civility in the courtroom	50%	32%	9%	6%	3%
Fairness and Impartiality Acts and rules impartially and free of any disposition, affiliation or influence	58%	28%	8%	5%	1%
Punctuality Begins hearings on time; Issues decisions in a timely manner	64%	29%	8%	0%	0%
Professionalism Reviews files and prepares prior to hearing	64%	25%	8%	3%	0%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	56%	33%	8%	3%	0%