

**2020 North Carolina Voter Guide Questionnaire for
State Judicial Candidates**

Candidate Information

(Please Print or Type)

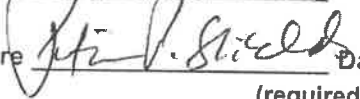
Candidate Name Tricia Shields

Office Sought NC Court of Appeals Seat 4

Campaign Address PO Box 4412 City Cary State NC Zip 27519

Campaign Phone/Fax 919-622-6541 / Campaign Website www.shieldsforjudge.com

Campaign Email shieldsforjudge@gmail.com Campaign Facebook Tricia Shields for Court of Appeals

Candidate Signature  Date 6/25/2020
(required) (required)

Candidate Questionnaire

Please indicate your responses below to the following questions. You may provide additional comments and explanations for your responses on a separate sheet of paper.

(Failure to answer a question will result in a listing of "No Response" in the 2020 Voter Guide.)

1. Which one of the current Justices on the U.S. Supreme Court best reflects your judicial philosophy?

 Alito Breyer Ginsburg Gorsuch Kagan Kavanaugh Roberts Sotomayor Thomas

2. Rate your judicial philosophy toward the Constitution on a scale of 1-10 with a "living document" approach being a 1 and an "originalism" approach being a 10.

 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Approach *Living Document Approach* *Originalism*

3. Please list the organizations with which you have been involved over the past five years through membership, religious affiliation, pro-bono legal work, or volunteer service.

I am a member of the Wake County Bar Association, the North Carolina Bar Association, the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys, the North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys, the American Board of Trial Advocates, and the Susie Sharp Inn of Court. I served as a member of the Celebrate NC Courts Committee. I have participated in pro bono activities over the years, most recently working with the NC Pro Bono Resource Center on a project relating to the restoration of drivers' licenses to eligible individuals.

Additional information concerning Questions 1 and 2:

Thank you for permitting me to respond to these first two questions more fully.

I was unable to check a box in response to the first two questions. Both questions concern judicial philosophy.

I do not have judicial philosophy modeled after any particular Justice. My judicial philosophy is based on my understanding of the role of a Court of Appeals judge, which is very different from the role of a United States Supreme Court Justice. A Court of Appeals judge is required to follow the precedent set by the United States Supreme Court, as well as our North Carolina Supreme Court and prior panels of the North Carolina Court of Appeals. Most, if not all, of the Supreme Court Justices have made decisions that I would have agreed with, as well as some that I would have disagreed with, if I had been called on to make the decision. However, as a Court of Appeals judge, my duty would be to follow those decisions when interpreting the United States Constitution, regardless of my own personal opinion.

Further, I do not have a judicial philosophy that can be placed on a scale with "living document" on one end, and "originalism" on the other. I do not think of our Constitution or the role of a Court of Appeals judge in that way. The prior decisions of the appellate courts provide binding precedent on how judges should interpret both the Constitutions of the United States and of North Carolina. Our North Carolina Supreme Court has held that in interpreting the Constitution, judges are required to look to the text of the Constitution itself, the historical context of the constitutional provision, and the precedent of the Supreme Court. I would follow the binding precedent of the Courts, because I believe that to be the duty of a Court of Appeals judge.

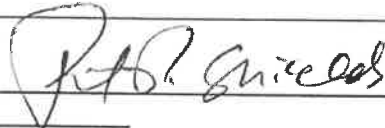
4. In the space below, or on a separate sheet of paper, please describe your overall judicial philosophy.

I believe that is the responsibility of a judge on the North Carolina to follow the law, and apply it fairly and consistently. The role of Court of Appeals is to uphold the Constitution and to follow the precedent as established by our Supreme Court and the prior decision of the Court of Appeals when interpreting the laws and the Constitution. The individual personal opinions of judges, political or otherwise, should have no bearing on their decisions. I have learned from my 35 years of representing North Carolinians at all levels of our court system that fairness and consistency is central to our justice system.

5. In the space below, or on a separate sheet of paper, please describe the role faith plays in your daily life.

I am a Christian. I was raised in a faithful home. My father was a Baptist minister when I was small, and he and my other devoted their lives to the service of others. When I was about eleven years old, my family joined St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Durham, where I was baptized. These days, I observe services on line, like so many others. The values that I was raised with of kindness, patience, and forgiveness are a central part of who I am and guide me in my daily interactions with others, in my personal and professional life.

Candidate Signature



Date

6-25-2020

(required)

(required)

**Please return completed questionnaire to the
NC Family Policy Council by Friday, June 19,
2020**

By mail to: NCFPC, P.O. Box 20607, Raleigh, NC
27619 By Email to: vote@ncfamily.org By Fax to:
(919) 807-0900