



# 2020 North Carolina Voter Guide Questionnaire for State Judicial Candidates

## Candidate Information

(Please Print or Type)

Candidate Name Gray Styers

Office Sought North Carolina Court of Appeals Seat #06

Campaign Address P.O. Box 1246 City Raleigh State NC Zip 27602

Campaign Phone/Fax 919-389-6228 / \_\_\_\_\_ Campaign Website www.styersforjudge.com

Campaign Email styersforjudge@gmail.com Campaign Facebook StyersforJudge

Candidate Signature *Gray Styers, Jr.* Date June 16, 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  
PLEASE SEE ATTACHED

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  
Living Document Approach Originalism Approach

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED

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.

- Raleigh Moravian Church
    - Sunday School Teacher, Sacristan, Lay Reader, Church Brass Band member (trumpet),
    - Children's Message Leader (substitute), Men's Fellowship, Other volunteer positions (e.g. usher, greeter, etc.)
  - Moravian Church in America, Southern Province,
    - Provincial Support Services Board (2010-2014), Chairman
  - Wake Forest University School of Divinity, Board of Visitors
  - North Carolina Museum of History Associates, Board of Directors, Chairman (2019-20)
  - North Carolina Symphony Society, Board of Trustees
  - Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Triangle, Board of Directors
  - Wake County Bar Association, Immediate Past President (2015)
  - North Carolina Bar Association
    - Future of the Law Committee (member)
    - Civic Education and Community Engagement Committee (member)
  - Kiwanis Club of Raleigh (member)
  - Habitat for Humanity (construction volunteer)
  - Pro Bono Service: Legal Aid of North Carolina, "Lawyer on the Line" Volunteer
  - NC Bar Foundation: 4All Service Day Volunteer
  - Raleigh Concert Band, incorporation and governance
- P.O. Box 20607, Raleigh, NC 27619 • Phone: 919.807.0800 • Fax: 919.807.0900 • Web: www.ncfamily.org

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

**Gray Styers  
Candidate Questionnaire Continued**

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

1. Because I believe each of them contribute in different ways to the jurisprudence of the Supreme Court and that I may agree or disagree with the approach taken by a particular justice in a particular case, I cannot answer this question by simply picking one as a generality. My judicial philosophy as a judge on the NC Court of Appeals would be to consistently apply the rule of law, impartially and fairly, without regard to any particular ideology or special interest, to respect established legal precedent to provide consistency in decisions over time, and to uphold the protections of the Constitution and the role of the courts to apply the applicable constitutional or statutory provisions or the content of the common law to the facts of the case.

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

2. I believe the question assumes a dichotomy that is not applicable in the same way to all issues or areas of the law. Respect for settled precedent and consistency is essential to the rule of law, and, likewise, the Constitution must be applied to new technologies and changing circumstances in ways that are rational and relevant but were unforeseen by the Founding Fathers. I believe that it was the original intent and hope of the Founding Fathers that the Constitution would be applied to new and novel issues in this way. Moreover, North Carolina judges are bound by decisions of the US Supreme Court concerning how the federal Constitution is construed. Various decisions of the US Supreme Court adopt a range of different approaches depending upon the issue, including reference to the language of the original provision, the intent of the framers, and prior decisions of the courts. I will follow those precedents.

# 2020 North Carolina Voter Guide

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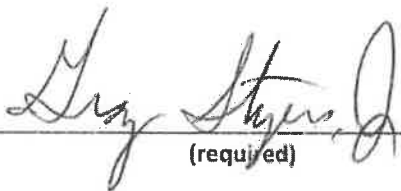
4. In the space below, or on a separate sheet of paper, please describe your overall judicial philosophy.

In addition to what I wrote in response to Question 1 and Question 2, I will note an observation that Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals Chief Judge Sam J. Ervin III told me when I clerked for him: "The role of an intermediate appellate is to make sure the trial court followed the law correctly; our role is not to make sweeping Constitutional pronouncements; we'll leave that to the Supremes." That seems me to be good advice for a judge on the NC Court of Appeals to follow as well. Accordingly, I will use my knowledge of the law, my intellect, and my analytical skills to decide specific issues and write clear opinions on the basis of the existing law and properly-established facts without attempting to further any political or ideological agenda.

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

As stated on my campaign website (from the day that I first filed to run): my faith is at the core of who I am. I was baptized at the First Baptist Church in Hickory, NC, where my father was a deacon and my mother taught Sunday School. I have considered myself to be a believing and practicing Christian every day of my life. Being married (almost 30 years) to a pastor (and with a daughter who is an approved candidate for ordination and is attending a graduate divinity school), discussions of faith, ethics, discipleship, and scripture are part of our family's daily routine. I have an active prayer and devotional life (usually using the Moravian Daily Text), regularly study the Bible (often in preparation of teaching or attending Sunday School classes), and attend weekly worship. I consider my thoughts, words, and actions, wherever I am, to be a reflection of and a witness to my Christian faith.

Candidate Signature

  
(required)

Date

June 16, 2020  
(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](mailto:vote@ncfamily.org)

By Fax to: (919) 807-0900

## Family Policy Council

### Gray Styers – Court of Appeals Seat #06 -- State Judicial Candidate Questionnaire Responses

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2. I believe the question assumes a dichotomy that is not applicable in the same way to all issues or areas of the law. Respect for settled precedent and consistency is essential to the rule of law, and, likewise, the Constitution must be applied to new technologies and changing circumstances in ways that are rational and relevant but were unforeseen by the Founding Fathers. I believe that it was the *original intent* and hope of the Founding Fathers that the Constitution would be applied to new and novel issues in this way. Moreover, North Carolina judges are bound by decisions of the US Supreme Court concerning how the federal Constitution is construed. Various decisions of the US Supreme Court adopt a range of different approaches depending upon the issue, including reference to the language of the original provision, the intent of the framers, and prior decisions of the courts. I will follow those precedents.

3. Raleigh Moravian Church

Sunday School Teacher, Sacristan, Lay Reader, Church Brass Band member (trumpet), Children's Message Leader (substitute), Men's Fellowship, Other volunteer positions (e.g. usher, greeter, etc.)

Moravian Church in America, Southern Province,

Provincial Support Services Board (2010-2014), Chairman

Wake Forest University School of Divinity, Board of Visitors

North Carolina Museum of History Associates, Board of Directors, Chairman (2019-20)

North Carolina Symphony Society, Board of Trustees

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Triangle, Board of Directors

Wake County Bar Association, Immediate Past President (2015)

North Carolina Bar Association

Future of the Law Committee (member)

Civic Education and Community Engagement Committee (member)

Kiwanis Club of Raleigh (member)

Habitat for Humanity (construction volunteer)

Pro Bono Service: Legal Aid of North Carolina, "Lawyer on the Line" Volunteer

NC Bar Foundation: 4All Service Day Volunteer

Raleigh Concert Band, incorporation and governance

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