



2022 North Carolina Voter Guide Questionnaire for State Judicial Candidates

Candidate Information

(Please Print or Type)

Candidate Name Richard Dietz

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Candidate Signature  Date 7/7/2022
(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 2022 Voter Guide.)

1. Which Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court best reflects your judicial philosophy?

Alito Barrett Breyer 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 X 10
Living Document Approach *Originalism Approach*

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.

See attached

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

See attached

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

See attached

Candidate Signature Richard Dent Date 7/7/2022
(required) (required)

**Please return completed questionnaire to the
NC Family Policy Council by Friday, July 15, 2022**

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

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:

My professional activities focus on organizations seeking to improve the legal system. For example, I served on the Bar Association's Future of Law Committee, examining new technologies to provide legal help, and the Equal Access to Justice Commission, where I focused on programs to use technology to make accessing the court system easier and less costly.

For the last few years, my biggest volunteer initiative has been providing learning experiences about our fundamental constitutional rights. During the pandemic I created an online program with Justice Phil Berger, Jr. called the "North Carolina Constitutional Academy" so that students stuck at home could learn about the U.S. Constitution. The videos are still available on the N.C. Court of Appeals website and we plan to update them next year. I also created similar online programs for law students and lawyers who needed additional training during the pandemic.

Last year I launched a series of animated videos called "Judge Dietz's Animated Treatise" to teach lawyers, law students, and the public more about the work of our State's appellate courts. Those videos are available on my YouTube page: [youtube.com/JudgeRichardDietz](https://www.youtube.com/JudgeRichardDietz)

I have also given presentations about the Constitution to groups including the Federalist Society and the John Locke Foundation.

Please describe your overall judicial philosophy:

I have written many hundreds of opinions in eight years as a Court of Appeals judge and an observer of my decision-making likely would describe me as a judicial conservative with a splash of law & economics.

In constitutional interpretation, I focus on the key idea that “We the People” ratified our fundamental rights. I reject the notion of judges rewriting what the people ratified as part of so-called living constitutionalism.

With laws enacted by the legislature, I am a textualist and follow the language chosen by lawmakers. I have often written in opinions about the danger of judges trying to rewrite laws to achieve what they believe are lawmakers’ policy goals.

In areas of common law, where judicial decisions create the law, I focus on what is typically described as “law & economics,” examining how common law can best create incentives to keep us safe, encourage people to peacefully resolve disputes, and help our society prosper.

I also focus on writing judicial opinions that are concise and easy for anyone, not just lawyers, to read and understand. I firmly believe that the law must be accessible to everyone.

Please describe the role faith plays in your daily life:

I am a Lutheran and my faith, and God’s message of love and hope for all people, plays a huge role in my personal life. I am also firmly committed to defending the right to religious liberty. The framers of the Constitution understood the importance of defending the right of all people to share their faith and enjoy religious liberty. It is a vital role of the courts to defend this constitutional right.