



2022 North Carolina Voter Guide Questionnaire for State Judicial Candidates

Candidate Information

(Please Print or Type)

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Candidate Signature Lucy Inman Date July 15, 2022

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

I frequently read opinions by the various justices of the United States Supreme Court, but I do not know any of the justices' judicial philosophies, nor can I compare them to mine. My own judicial philosophy rests on fundamental principles including adherence to the rule of law and the doctrine of *stare decisis*. That doctrine, Latin for "let the decision stand," requires state courts and lower federal courts to follow United States Supreme Court decisions in any analysis of the Constitution. My general judicial philosophy applied in matters not governed by precedent is grounded in honesty, transparency, and the discipline of considering each matter before the court based on the facts of record, the text of any language whose meaning is disputed, and the applicable law, independent of any partisan influence or personal view about what I might like the law to be. My own written opinions best reflect my judicial philosophy, and I invite you to review those opinions.

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

My judicial philosophy toward the Constitution is controlled by United States Supreme Court decisions interpreting the Constitution. Those decisions, including the rules of textual interpretation applied in those decisions, are binding on state courts' interpretations of the Constitution. No state court judge is – or should – be free to employ his or her own individual judicial philosophy as a substitute for the philosophy mandated by the United States Supreme

Court. Binding precedent from the United States Supreme Court applies an originalist approach in some constitutional cases, and I am bound to follow that approach in those cases. Other binding precedent from the United States Supreme Court applies different approaches, including the “evolving standards of decency” approach applied in eighth amendment cases, and I will follow that precedent so long as it is undisturbed by the United States Supreme Court or by amendment to the Constitution.

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 have volunteered with the following organizations in the past five years: The North Carolina Bar Association, the North Carolina State Bar, the North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys, the Rotary Club of Raleigh, and the Interfaith Food Shuttle of Wake County. Because my role as a judge prohibits me from practicing law, I have not provided any pro bono legal services in the past five years.

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

My judicial philosophy is informed by the values of honesty, transparency, and impartiality, which require independence from any and all partisan influence. I strive to maintain an open mind about every issue before the court until I have carefully read and considered the facts of record, the law, and the arguments of counsel. I follow controlling precedent, even if I personally disagree with that precedent. I have not had occasion to depart from or overturn precedent. In matters not controlled by a precedent from the United States Supreme Court or the North Carolina Supreme Court, but controlled by a prior decision from the Court of Appeals, I would not overturn precedent without clearly articulating a reason, and I imagine those instances would be extremely rare. I cannot recall a single opinion that I have written or concurred in that has overturned a prior decision from the Court of Appeals. I believe the judicial branch is responsible for maintaining the stability and consistency of the rule of law, so that our state and nation are governed by laws, not individual judges and justices. I defer to the legislative and executive branches with respect to policy issues. Only if a policy decision, rule, or actions violates a statute or the federal or state constitution, and then only if an appeal is taken challenging that policy and bringing the dispute within the jurisdiction of the court, does the judicial branch have the authority to impede or invalidate a policy.

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

I have been blessed by God’s grace all of my life. My parents, Sunday school teachers, and ministers first helped me develop my faith. I was baptized in the Episcopal Church and I practice its teachings in my personal and professional life, every day. Those teachings include the following core principles: Respect all living beings and all faiths. Serve and share God’s blessing with those in need. Love your enemies. Confess and seek forgiveness for your sins. Forgive the sins of others. Learn from your mistakes.

Candidate Signature Lucy Inman **Date** July 15, 2022