



Report to Voters on Judicial Retention Elections

Voters throughout New Mexico will be asked whether to retain one Supreme Court justice and three Court of Appeals judges standing for retention. Under the state's constitution, these individuals must receive at least 57% voter approval to remain on the bench.

Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission

In 1997, the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC) was established by the Supreme Court of New Mexico, in part, to provide useful, credible information to New Mexico voters on all judges standing for retention during general elections.

Our Evaluation Process

We use an objective, carefully-monitored process to evaluate justices and judges in four (4) main areas:

- legal ability
- fairness
- communication skills
- preparation, attentiveness, temperament and control over proceedings.

We also conduct confidential, one-on-one interviews with each justice/judge being evaluated to discuss survey results and review their self-assessment of performance.

Your Vote Counts!

Please vote in every election for which you are eligible!

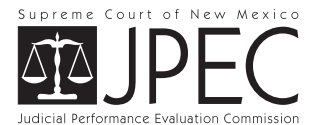
Absentee Voting Begins – Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2006

Early Voting Begins – Saturday, Oct. 21, 2006

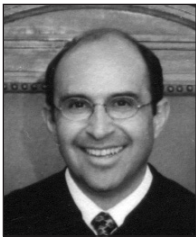
Election Day – Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2006

For More Information

For more information about the New Mexico Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission, visit our website at www.nmjpec.org, or call (505) 827-4960.



2006 JPEC RECOMMENDATIONS



Supreme Court of New Mexico Honorable Edward L. Chavez

Recommendation: Retain

Evaluation: Justice Edward Chavez received consistently high ratings in this evaluation. He exhibits strengths in all judicial performance categories, including timely submission of his authored opinions, effectively handling his workload, working hard, and discharging administrative responsibilities diligently. His decisions are readable

and understandable. He conducts himself in a manner free from impropriety and demonstrates knowledge of substantive law. Although this evaluation indicated no specific areas of weaknesses or concern, Justice Chavez is committed to improving his own judicial skills.

Experience & Education: Justice Chavez was appointed to the bench on March 10, 2003 and was elected in November 2004. Before assuming the bench, he worked for 22 years in private practice. He served as President of the Legal Aid Society of Albuquerque, Chairman of the University of New Mexico Mental Health Center, and Chairman of the Disciplinary Board. Justice Chavez teaches at the University of New Mexico School of Law and the National Institute of Trial Advocacy. He received his undergraduate degree from Eastern New Mexico University and his law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law.



New Mexico Court of Appeals Honorable Lynn Pickard

Recommendation: Retain

Evaluation: Judge Lynn Pickard's ratings have been uniformly high throughout this evaluation period. She exhibits strengths in all attributes of judicial performance including legal knowledge, rendering legal opinions and fairness. She is a hard worker, punctual and a highly productive judge, striving for excellence in

all that she does. Although these evaluation results raised no specific criticisms of Judge Pickard's performance, she remains committed to improving her judicial skills.

Experience & Education: Judge Lynn Pickard has served on the New Mexico Court of Appeals since 1991. Prior to her current position, she worked in private practice and for the New Mexico Court of Appeals as a chief staff attorney and law clerk. She received her law degree from Northeastern University School of Law and her undergraduate degree from New York University. Judge Pickard has consistently been a member of several professional organizations such as the New Mexico Women's Bar Association and the American Judicature Society. She volunteers at St. Elizabeth's Shelter as a cook.



New Mexico Court of Appeals Honorable Cynthia A. Fry

Recommendation: Retain

Evaluation: Judge Cynthia Fry received uniform high ratings as part of this evaluation. Some of her specific strengths include her ability to conduct herself in a manner free from impropriety, her demeanor and her sound knowledge of rules of evidence and procedure. She effectively handles her ongoing workload and

is diligent in carrying out her duties. Judge Fry's opinions are understandable and clearly set forth the rules of law. This evaluation revealed no specific weaknesses. The judge is committed to continually improving her work performance.

Experience & Education: Judge Fry received her law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1981. She had extensive experience as a practicing lawyer prior to her seat on the New Mexico Court of Appeals on December 1, 2000. Judge Fry served on the Supreme Court's Appellate Rules Committee and as Chair of the New Mexico State Bar Association's Appellate Practice Section. She is a member of the Court Improvement Project (CIP) Task Force, CIP Timeliness Subcommittee, and the Board Governing the Recording of Judicial Proceedings. In 1991, Judge Fry received the "Outstanding Contribution" Award from the New Mexico State Bar.



New Mexico Court of Appeals Honorable Jim Wechsler

Recommendation: Retain

Evaluation: Judge Jim Wechsler received very high ratings in all of the attributes considered in his present and previous judicial performance evaluations. His strengths include legal competence, fairness, demeanor and communication skills. He is a hard worker who is committed to being timely in making rulings and rendering

decisions. He discharges his administrative responsibilities diligently and conducts himself in a manner free from impropriety. The overall assessment of Judge Wechsler's performance indicated he is well respected and appreciated by those who appear before him as well as colleagues in the court system.

Experience & Education: Judge Wechsler has served on the Court of Appeals since December 1994. He currently serves as Chair of the Advisory Committee on the Code of Judicial Conduct and as Chair of the Judiciary's Budget Committee. He is also a member of the Judicial Education and Training Advisory Committee. Judge Wechsler has served on numerous Supreme Court and State Bar Committees. Before assuming the bench, he worked in private practice. Judge Wechsler received both his undergraduate and law degree from New York University.