



JPEC 2019 Report to the Community

2018 Judicial Retention Election

Court Level	Regular	Provisional*	Total
Supreme Court	0	1	1
Court of Appeals	0	1	1
District Court	11	12	23
Juvenile Court	1	7	8
Justice Court	3	8	11
Grand Total	15 (34%)	29 (66%)	44

*According to the Utah Constitution, judges must stand for the first general election at least three years after appointment. The provisional term is shorter than the regular term. Judges in Utah serve six-year terms, except for justices on the Utah Supreme Court who serve ten-year terms.

- **55** judges were eligible to stand for retention, as of 1/1/16.
- JPEC completed **47** retention evaluation reports.
- **44** judges appeared on the ballot and on judges.utah.gov.
- **66%** have served fewer than four years.
- Voters retained **44** judges.

Did you know?

Judges see their evaluation reports before deciding whether to stand for the retention election. Some choose to resign or retire rather than face a retention election with a negative evaluation.



Did you know?

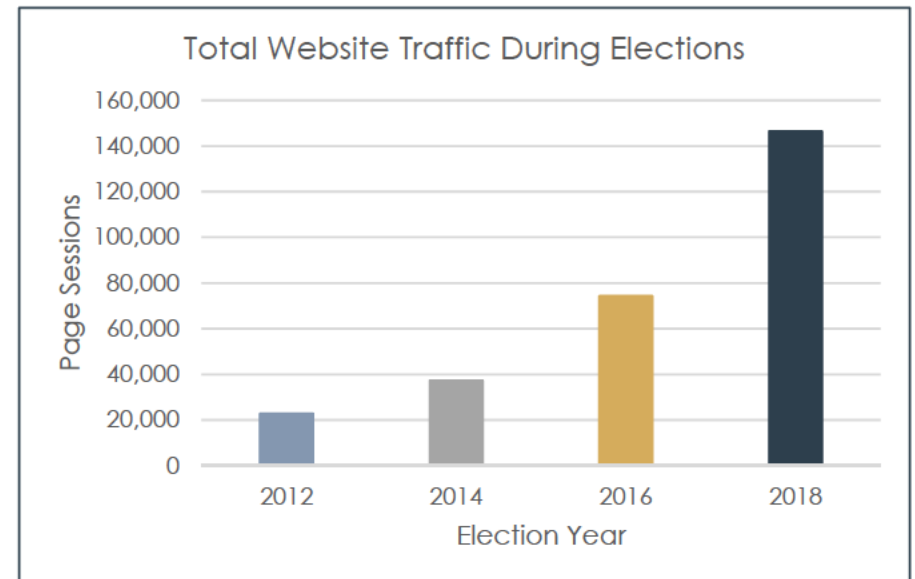
Statute requires commissioners to vote in favor of a judge's retention if the judge meets minimum standards, unless there is substantial countervailing evidence why the judge should not be retained.

2018 Elections Outreach

JPEC seeks an informed electorate for judicial retention elections. Public awareness activities include:

- **80** "KNOW YOUR JUDGES" signs placed in **7** counties in Utah.
- **27** events, targeting regional and statewide media.
- **78** JPEC posts on social media, yielding **223,363** impressions.

Outreach contributed to a **98% increase** in website traffic over 2016.



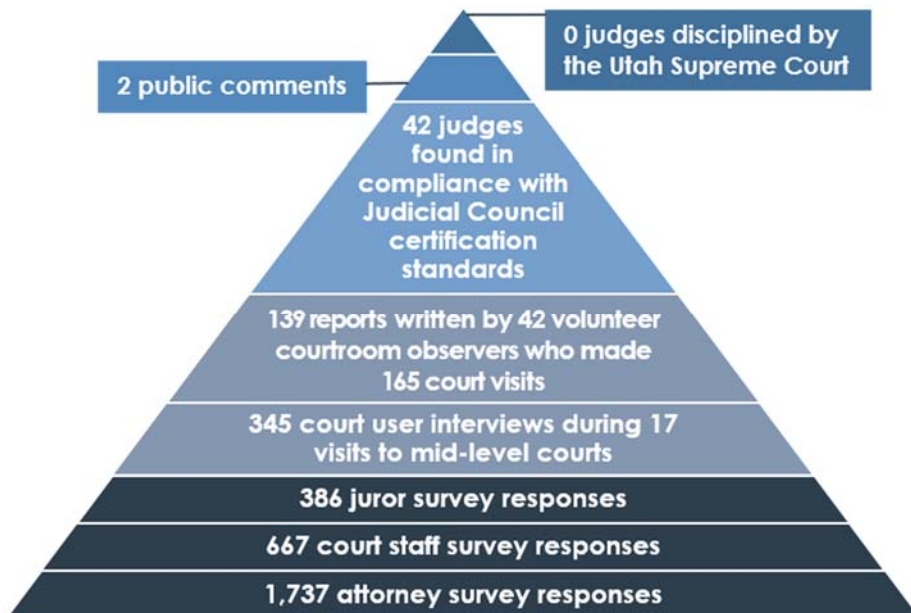
What is JPEC?

The Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission was established by state statute in 2008. Its goals are:

- ✓ To provide voters with valid information about each judge's performance so they may make informed decisions in judicial retention elections;
- ✓ To provide judges with useful feedback about their performance so they may become better judges and thereby improve the quality of the judiciary; and
- ✓ To promote public accountability of the judiciary while ensuring that it continues to operate as an independent branch of government.

2018 Evaluation Voices

Judge evaluations assemble and rely on the views and experiences of multiple groups that interact with judges. JPEC evaluations completed in 2018 include the following voices:



Ongoing Evaluations

With general elections every other year, JPEC's evaluations of judges are ongoing. During 2016 to 2018, it completed the following for the 2018, 2020, and 2022 judicial retention elections:

- Survey invitations sent to **3,749** attorneys, **1,732** court staff and juvenile court professionals, and **1,284** jurors;
- Outreach to over **20** groups to encourage survey participation, including regional and specialty bar associations, local court administrators, and juvenile court professionals;
- **614** reports made during **678** court visits by **146** volunteer courtroom observers;
- **25** recruitment and training sessions for volunteer courtroom observers;
- **1,049** court user interviews during **57** visits to mid-level courts;
- **262** public comments submitted by members of the public;
- **64** midterm evaluation reports completed for judges who will stand for retention in 2020 or 2024; and
- **1,595** hours of volunteer service by JPEC commissioners.

Who are the JPEC commissioners?

- ✓ JPEC's 13 volunteer commissioners are social workers, accountants, retired educators, lawyers, community leaders, and "baseball moms" who donate their time to a careful evaluation of the data collected on each judge.
- ✓ Commissioners are appointed by Governor Gary R. Herbert, the Utah Legislature, and the Utah Supreme Court.
- ✓ By law, about half of the membership may be attorneys. Partisan balance is required.