# DEFENDING JUSTICE, PROTECTING RIGHTS



A Program of the National Association of Women Judges

#### Fair and Impartial Courts Are Essential

Fair and impartial courts are vital to upholding the rule of law. Judges should make decisions based solely on the facts and the law—free from politics and special interests.

When judges remain impartial, everyone receives a fair hearing. When outcomes reflect legal principles, not external pressures, people trust the judicial system.

### **Preserving Judicial Independence**

Unlike political officials, judges must remain independent. Our Constitution creates a judicial system insulated from political influence, safeguarding impartial decisions. Protecting this independence is essential to maintaining a fair legal system.

## **Choosing Judges Wisely**

Judicial selection varies by state, from appointments to elections. Regardless of method, selecting judges based on merit, integrity, and fairness is crucial. Informed voters play an essential role in ensuring qualified candidates become judges. They understand the importance of judicial impartiality and reject attempts to politicize the courts. By becoming educated about judicial candidates and processes, voters can help safeguard fair and impartial courts.

#### **Learn More and Get Involved**

The Informed Voters – Fair Judges Project provides resources to help voters choose fair, impartial judges who uphold the rule of law. Visit us at <a href="https://ivp.nawj.org">ivp.nawj.org</a>.

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