

# ELECTION OF JUDGES



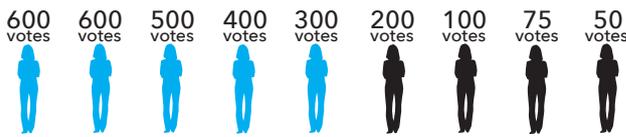
For elections, circuits with more than one judge will be separated into divisions according to the number of judges serving the circuit.

- Judges will be elected in MAY, instead of November
- Judges will run as nonpartisan candidates instead of being associated with a political party
- Candidates will be located on the nonpartisan ballot like the Board of Education race

Example:

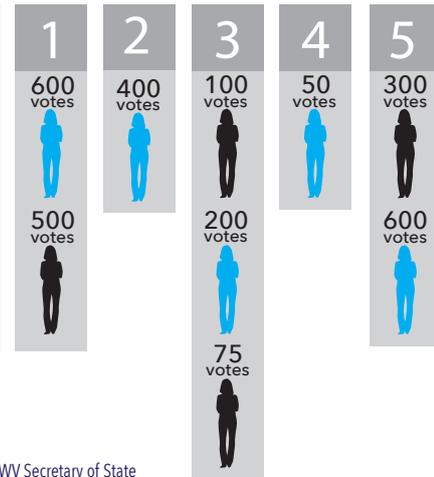
PREVIOUSLY

CURRENTLY



Previously, the elected judges were the top 5 vote-getters in each race.

The candidate in each division with the most votes will be elected, regardless of the number of votes received in comparison to other divisions.



**ELECTED JUDGES**

304-558-6000 | [www.wvsos.com](http://www.wvsos.com) | [elections@wvsos.com](mailto:elections@wvsos.com)

Information provided by the WV Secretary of State

## 2016 ELECTION CHANGE: ELECTION of JUDGES

### ABOUT THE COURTS

#### Supreme Court of Appeals

serves the entire state and consists of five justices  
Supreme court justices hear appeals when someone loses a civil or criminal case in circuit court.

#### Circuit Court

represented by 74 judges divided into 31 circuits  
Circuit court judges have jurisdiction over civil cases at law over \$2,500 with limited exceptions; all civil cases in equity; all felonies and misdemeanors; and other specialty cases.

#### Family Court

represented by 47 judges divided into 27 circuits  
Family court judges hear and resolve disputes involving children and families.

#### Magistrates

the 55 counties are represented by 158 magistrates  
Magistrate judges hear misdemeanor cases, conduct preliminary felony hearings and hear civil arguments with \$5,000 or less in dispute.

### What you need to do:

- REGISTER TO VOTE  
online, by mail, or in person
- Locate your polling place
- COME OUT AND VOTE
- Look for **NONPARTISAN** section of the ballot to vote for judges

### What you need to know:

- Judges will be elected in MAY instead of November
- Judges will NOT run under any political party
- Supreme Court of Appeals justices
- Circuit Court judges
- Family Court judges
- Magistrates

# 2016 West Virginia Election Dates and Deadlines

- **Jan 1 - May 4**
  - *Military and Overseas Voting*
    - Military and Overseas Voters may apply to receive an absentee ballot by mail or electronically
- **Jan 11 - Jan 30**
  - *Candidate filing period*
    - State and Federal candidates must file with the Secretary of State
    - County candidates must file with the County Clerk
- **Feb 16 - May 4**
  - *Voting Absentee*
    - All eligible voters may apply to receive an absentee ballot by mail
- **April 19**

*Last day to register to vote for the Primary Election*

  - You may register or update your registration online at <https://ovr.sos.wv.gov/Register>
  - If you prefer to complete your voter registration form by hand, you may download a blank voter registration form to mail or deliver in-person from <https://ovr.sos.wv.gov/Register>
- **April 27 - May 7**
  - Early Voting is open during regular business hours at each county courthouse or courthouse annex. Early Voting is also available each Saturday from 9:00am to 5:00pm. You may confirm Early Voting hours and locations by contacting the County Clerk Office at 243 High Street or (304) 291-7230 or [monongaliacounty@wvsos.com](mailto:monongaliacounty@wvsos.com)
- **May 3 - May 10**
  - *Emergency Absentee Voting – Contact County Clerk*
    - Eligible citizens may request an emergency absentee ballot until noon Election Day.
- **May 10**
  - Primary Election Day polls are open 6:30am – 7:30pm

## Review your West Virginia Voter's Bill of Rights

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/wv-voters-bill-of-rights> to learn your rights. WV does not require Voter ID. However, poll workers may ask for identification at the polling place **ONLY** if you are a first-time voter since registering. Call **304-558-6000 or 1-866-SOS-VOTE** for election violations. If for some reason your voter's right to request a ballot has been challenged by the poll clerk, reasons may include:

- If the voter's registration record is not available at the time of the election.
- If the signature written by the person in the poll book does not correspond with the signature on the registration record.
- If the registration record indicates any other legal disqualifications

You are permitted to vote using a Provisional Ballot, and you have the legal right under WV Code §3-1-41 to check the status of your Provisional Ballot at the Provisional Ballot Tracking page at the Secretary of State website.

This flyer was compiled by the League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County, <http://morgantown.lwv.org> (FREE non-partisan guides, candidate forums and public meetings). Please contact [jr@lwv.org](mailto:jr@lwv.org) or (304) 599-2370 for additional information or to learn how to become a member.