

Lycoming Law Association Policy on Member Surveys for Lycoming County Court of Common Pleas Judicial Elections and Retentions

Purpose

This policy establishes procedures for surveying members of the Lycoming Law Association (LLA) regarding Lycoming County Court of Common Pleas judicial election candidates and judicial retention elections, and for publishing the results in a transparent and responsible manner.

Judicial Election Surveys

For judicial elections, the LLA will survey its current members in good standing to assess the qualifications of all candidates for judicial office. Each candidate will be evaluated in the following areas of qualification:

- Competency
- Experience
- Integrity
- Judicial Temperament

Members will rate each candidate in each category using the following scale:

- Extremely Qualified
- Well Qualified
- Qualified
- Not Qualified

Threshold for Publication and Distribution: Survey results will be published only if a majority (more than 50%) of LLA members participate in the survey.

Publication Format: If the threshold is met, the published results will include:

- The total number of current LLA members.
- The percentage of members who participated in the survey.
- The percentage of votes for each rating in each category of qualification for each candidate.

Distribution: Results will be:

- Shared with LLA members.
- Posted on the LLA's official website.
- Published in the local newspaper.

Judicial Retention Surveys

When a Court of Common Pleas judge is up for retention vote, the LLA will conduct a survey of its current members to determine whether the judge should be retained for another term. Members will be asked to respond with either “Yes” or “No” if the judge should be retained for another 10-year term.

Threshold for Publication and Distribution: Survey results will be published only if a majority (more than 50%) of current LLA members in good standing participate in the survey.

Publication Format: If the threshold is met, the published results will include:

- The total number of current LLA members.
- The percentage of members who participated in the survey.
- The percentage of “yes” votes for retention.
- The percentage of “no” votes for retention.

Distribution: Results will be:

- Shared with LLA members.
- Posted on the LLA’s official website.
- Published in the local newspaper.

Confidentiality and Integrity

- All surveys will be conducted in a manner that ensures the confidentiality of individual responses and the integrity of the process.