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1. *As you read in the cover letter to this survey, Legislative action is required to change the way we select Supreme Court justices, would you support a legislative effort to make such changes?*

YES  NO

*Comments*

John Bonacic: **“Qualified Yes. That would depend on what that legislative effort is. I do believe the system needs to be changed. However, to commit to supporting ‘a legislative effort’ without defining that effort is not appropriate.”**

2. *Do you support holding public hearings to determine how to best amend our laws governing the selection of Supreme Court judicial candidates?*

YES  NO

*Comments*

3. *The method of selecting judges in New York State has a direct and significant impact on the fair and efficient administration of justice. The Committee for Modern Courts believes that an appointive system represents the best method of limiting external pressures on judicial selection and diminishes the role of money and politics on the process. Would you favor replacing the present elective system for New York State Supreme Court justices with an appointive system in which a nonpartisan judicial qualification commission in each judicial district recommends well-qualified candidates?*

YES  NO

*Comments*

John Bonacic: **“This question is far too general to answer yes or no. The problem as I see it with our judicial selection system, is that a very limited**

**number of people decide who gets on the ballot. I trust the voter to make intelligent decisions about who they want to govern or judge them. It is the system of getting one's name on the ballot that needs reform, not the final act of the people voting on those who make the ballot."**

4. *Until the Legislature enacts new laws, Supreme Court judicial candidates will be selected at open primaries. The undue influence of campaign contributions on judicial candidates would be enhanced in an open primary system. Would you support legislation that provides for public financing of judicial campaigns?*

YES  NO

*Comments*

John Bonacic: **"Qualified Yes. Committing taxpayer dollars without specific legislative language is always a concern so I cannot expressly say "yes" or "no". Conceptually, however, I support public financing for judicial campaigns."**

5. *The Feerick Commission recommended a series of reforms to the current elective system that might address the constitutional issues found by the Appeals Court in Lopez Torres (see cover letter). Included in the Feerick Commission recommendations, are reforms of the judicial nominating conventions. The reforms are designed to increase the participation and knowledge of delegates to the convention. They include:*

- *providing for the election of judicial delegates long before the conventions,*
- *decreasing the number of delegates,*
- *extending the term a delegate maintains his/her position,*
- *decreasing the petition signatures required for a delegate, and*
- *allowing judicial candidates to address the delegates at the convention.*

*Would you support legislation that would include some or all of these recommendations?*

YES  NO

*Comments*

John Bonacic: **"Qualified Yes. Yes, provided that there are no loopholes to allow one candidate to have an unfair advantage over others. A key reform that must be implemented must be to ensure that smaller counties within judicial districts have a voice in the selection process."**

6. *Would you support another recommendation of the Feerick Commission: legislation establishing independent judicial qualifying commissions composed of appointees of local bar/civic, not for profit organizations, and law schools or*

*local colleges or universities that would review judicial candidates and report its findings of "most qualified" directly to the delegates and the voters?*

YES  NO

*Comments*

John Bonacic: **"Qualified Yes. That would depend on the structure of the commission and how that commission is constituted. I would want to ensure that the commission has qualified appointees."**

- 7. *Other elected judges in New York State include County Court, Surrogate Court, Family Court (outside of New York City), New York City Civil Court, District Court and City Court judges. Would you support the creation of independent judicial qualification commissions to review the qualifications of those judicial candidates?*

YES  NO

*Comments*

John Bonacic: **"Qualified Yes. That would depend on the structure of the commission and how that commission is constituted. I would want to have assurances that the Commission members would be qualified and nonpartisan."**

- 8. *Please circle and comment on which of the following components of our court system are important to the members of your community.*

**Jury Duty**

**Court Facilities**

**Judges**

**City Court**

**Family Court**

**Supreme Court**

**Village or Town Courts**

*Comments*

John Bonacic: **"All of the above are important since they all relate to the provision of justice in our society."**