

## Judges Shall be Elected FAQ

### **1. I thought judges were already elected. Don't we vote to retain them?**

When there is a judicial vacancy, interested attorneys may apply for the position. Their names and applications are sent to a nominating commission in their district. The commission is composed of four laypeople and three attorneys with no more than four members in one political party. Members of the commission are chosen by the Governor, Attorney General and Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court. The commission sends two or three recommendations to the Governor and, after interviews and investigation, he appoints one of the nominees to fill the vacancy.

Once chosen, a judge serves a provisional term of two years and then his or her name is on the next general election ballot. After that first time before the voters, County Court judges are up for retention every four years, District Court judges are up every six years, Court of Appeals judges every eight years and Supreme Court judges every ten years.

So, judges are selected by a handful of people from the State. We think that is a conflict of interest where a judge will rule for the interest of the State rather than the people.

### **2. Why have a judge that is not a member of the bar?**

The bar is a union of lawyers. It's the buddy system. They protect their profession by having state legislatures only allow bar members to represent people or even advise them in a court at law. If lawyers don't tote the status quo line, they could be disbarred and lose their license. Judges have been known to state, "Don't bring that constitution into my courtroom." With judges that have total disregard of the constitution and no way to get them off the bench, It should be the people's choice as to who they want to have for a judge in their county not some bureaucrat sitting in a government office.