



## Houston Bar Association Judicial Polls

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **1. How many Polls are conducted by HBA?**

The Houston Bar Association conducts two Judicial Polls. The polls are **not** endorsements of judicial candidates by the Houston Bar Association, but are an educational service to the public and the legal profession.

The judicial preference poll is conducted in election years and the judicial evaluation questionnaire is conducted in non-election years.

#### **2. What is the role of the Judicial Poll Committee?**

The committee oversees the timeline for distribution and makes recommendations, subject to approval by the HBA board, on changes/revisions to the polls. The committee also reviews the polls for accuracy.

#### **3. What are the qualifications to vote?**

Every Houston Bar Association member in good standing may vote in the judicial polls. The judicial evaluation questionnaire is the only poll where members are asked to evaluate a judge only if they have personal, firsthand knowledge of the judge.

#### **4. Are paper ballots available?**

Beginning in 2013, polls are conducted via online voting only, and HBA members must have an email address on file with the HBA in order to vote. No paper ballots will be provided.

## **5. Are HBA members' email addresses provided to candidates and judges?**

The HBA does not provide, sell or otherwise make available the email addresses of its members to judicial candidates or judges. However, candidates can obtain email addresses from other sources.

## **6. Does HBA encourage lobbying by candidates and judges?**

The Houston Bar Association does **not** encourage candidates or judges to lobby members for their vote. Any emails received from a judicial candidate or judge were written and distributed by that candidate or judge, not by the HBA.

## **7. Will anyone know how I voted?**

No. The Houston Bar Association does not collect information on how members voted. All counting and tabulations of ballots are performed by a third party, Ballot Box Online, via a program developed in conjunction with the Austin Bar Association. Ballot Box Online is currently used for Judicial Polls in Austin, Dallas, Houston and many other bar associations.

## **8. How do I get a password for online voting?**

Members are responsible for selecting a password. If the password is forgotten, members can change their individual password by following the prompts during the online voting period.

## **9. Can I change my vote?**

After a ballot has been submitted during an online voting period, the ballot can be discarded and a new ballot submitted during the online voting period. Once online voting has closed, no changes can be made to ballots.

## **10. How are results of the polls released?**

Poll results are posted on the HBA web site, as well as released to the news media. All HBA members receive an email with a link to the poll results.