

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 25, 2009**

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: JONATHAN CROOK (252)–206-6192**

## **Ohio Voters Want Party Affiliation for Judicial Candidates**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – Ohio voters are saying that they want to have their judicial candidates’ party affiliations disclosed during the state’s Supreme Court election campaigns, Public Policy Polling finds.

53% of respondents are in favor of disclosing party affiliation during the campaigns, while 39% would rather have the candidates simply talk about their stances on the issues rather than being associated with one party or another.

PPP also found that 68% of Ohio voters think that there should be stricter spending limits for judicial candidates in state Supreme Court elections, and 69% think that campaign contributions influence the way in which judges make decisions in the courtroom.

“Ohio voters are certainly aware of the power that big donations can have on their state Supreme Court elections, as can be seen by the election last year,” said Jonathan Crook of Public Policy Polling. “They want to know where these candidates stand on the issues without having to do a whole lot of research, and party affiliation disclosure is the easiest way to do that.”

Although Ohio’s voters are wary of the influence of big money in their judicial elections, 49% are not in favor of implementing a public finance system with \$1-\$3 check offs from state taxes, while only 24% are in favor of such a measure.

PPP surveyed 619 Ohio voters from June 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. The survey’s margin of error is +/- 3.9%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

Complete results are attached and can be found at [www.publicpolicypolling.com](http://www.publicpolicypolling.com).

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Jonathan Crook at (252) 206-6192.

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## Ohio Survey Results

**Q1** North Carolina currently has a law that gives statewide judicial candidates the option of accepting public campaign funding if they agree to spending limits and refuse money from Political Action Committees. It also makes judicial elections nonpartisan and provides voter guides to explain judicial candidates' qualifications. What would your position be on Ohio adopting a similar program? If you strongly favor it, press 1. If you somewhat favor it, press 2. If you somewhat oppose it, press 3. If you strongly oppose it, press 4. If you're not sure, press 5.

*Strongly Favor* .....32% *Strongly Oppose* ..... 4%  
*Somewhat Favor*....30% *Not Sure*.....19%  
*Somewhat Oppose* .15%

**Q2** Do you feel like judicial candidates are able to accept campaign financing from private entities like lawyers and law firms without creating a conflict of interest? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Yes* .....15% *Not Sure*.....17%  
*No*.....68%

**Q3** Do you think that candidates in Ohio's Supreme Court elections should disclose their party affiliation during their campaign, or should they only talk about their stances on the issues? If you think they should disclose their party affiliation, press 1. If you would rather they only talk about the issues, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Disclose Party Affiliation* ..... 53%  
*Talk About Issues* ..... 39%  
*Not Sure*..... 7%

**Q4** Do you think that there should be more strict spending limits for Ohio's Supreme Court elections? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Yes* .....68% *Not Sure*.....22%  
*No*.....10%

**Q5** Would you be in favor of a kind of public finance system for Ohio's Supreme Court elections funded by \$1-\$3 check offs from state taxes returns? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Yes* .....24% *Not Sure*.....28%  
*No*.....49%

**Q6** Do you think that campaign contributions influence the way that judges make decisions in the courtroom? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Yes* .....69% *Not Sure*.....18%  
*No*.....13%

**Q7** Are you concerned about special interest groups buying advertisements for judicial candidates in order to sway elections? If you are very concerned, press 1. If you are somewhat concerned, press 2. If you are somewhat unconcerned, press 3. If you are not concerned at all, press 4.

*Very Concerned*.....65% *Somewhat Unconcerned* ..... 9%  
*Somewhat Concerned* .....24% *Not Concerned*..... 2%





**Q8** Do you think that a public finance system would be effective in reducing conflicts of interest in Ohio's Supreme Court? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.  
 Yes .....36% Not Sure.....41%  
 No.....23%

**Q9** Do you agree with the concept of public finance in general for state, judicial, or federal elections? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.  
 Yes .....31% Not Sure.....38%  
 No.....31%

**Q10** Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative? If liberal, press 1. If moderate, press 2. If conservative, press 3.  
 Liberal..... 18%  
 Moderate..... 48%  
 Conservative..... 34%

**Q11** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.  
 Woman ..... 55%  
 Man..... 45%

**Q12** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If other, press 3.  
 Democrat ..... 50%  
 Republican..... 35%  
 Other..... 15%

**Q13** If you are white, press one now. If you are African-American, press two now. If other, press 3.  
 White ..... 83%  
 African-American ..... 13%  
 Other..... 4%

**Q14** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.  
 18 to 29..... 15%  
 30 to 45..... 25%  
 46 to 65..... 40%  
 Older than 65..... 20%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>N.C. Public Finance Favorability</b>				
<b>Strongly Favor</b>	<b>32%</b>	33%	35%	27%
<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	<b>30%</b>	28%	32%	28%
<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	<b>15%</b>	14%	15%	16%
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	<b>4%</b>	-	3%	7%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>19%</b>	26%	15%	21%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Accepting Finance Without Conflicts of Interests</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	<b>15%</b>	15%	13%	17%
<b>No</b>	<b>68%</b>	62%	69%	69%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>17%</b>	23%	17%	14%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Disclose Party Affiliation</b>				
<b>Disclose Party Affiliation</b>	<b>53%</b>	54%	52%	55%
<b>Talk About Issues</b>	<b>39%</b>	39%	42%	35%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>7%</b>	7%	6%	10%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Stricter Spending Limits</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	<b>68%</b>	60%	72%	68%
<b>No</b>	<b>10%</b>	9%	8%	12%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>22%</b>	32%	21%	20%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Judicial Public Finance Favorability</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	<b>24%</b>	28%	24%	20%
<b>No</b>	<b>49%</b>	43%	49%	52%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>28%</b>	29%	27%	28%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Contributions Influence Courts</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	<b>69%</b>	58%	71%	71%
<b>No</b>	<b>13%</b>	18%	11%	14%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>18%</b>	24%	17%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Special Interest Groups Concern</b>				
<b>Very Concerned</b>	<b>65%</b>	53%	65%	70%
<b>Somewhat Concerned</b>	<b>24%</b>	35%	24%	16%
<b>Somewhat Unconcerned</b>	<b>9%</b>	7%	8%	11%
<b>Not Concerned</b>	<b>2%</b>	5%	2%	2%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Fewer Conflicts of Interests</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	<b>36%</b>	43%	38%	31%
<b>No</b>	<b>23%</b>	18%	21%	27%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>41%</b>	38%	41%	42%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Public Finance In General</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	31%	43%	31%	24%
<b>No</b>	31%	17%	31%	39%
<b>Not Sure</b>	38%	41%	37%	37%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>N.C. Public Finance Favorability</b>			
<b>Strongly Favor</b>	32%	30%	34%
<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	30%	31%	28%
<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	15%	14%	17%
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	4%	2%	6%
<b>Not Sure</b>	19%	22%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Accepting Finance Without Conflicts of Interests</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	15%	13%	17%
<b>No</b>	68%	65%	71%
<b>Not Sure</b>	17%	22%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Disclose Party Affiliation</b>			
<b>Disclose Party Affiliation</b>	53%	52%	55%
<b>Talk About Issues</b>	39%	39%	39%
<b>Not Sure</b>	7%	8%	7%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Stricter Spending Limits</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	<b>68%</b>	67%	69%
<b>No</b>	<b>10%</b>	7%	13%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>22%</b>	26%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Judicial Public Finance Favorability</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	<b>24%</b>	19%	30%
<b>No</b>	<b>49%</b>	47%	52%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>28%</b>	35%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Contributions Influence Courts</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	<b>69%</b>	66%	72%
<b>No</b>	<b>13%</b>	11%	16%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>18%</b>	22%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Special Interest Groups Concern</b>			
<b>Very Concerned</b>	<b>65%</b>	66%	63%
<b>Somewhat Concerned</b>	<b>24%</b>	24%	24%
<b>Somewhat Unconcerned</b>	<b>9%</b>	8%	11%
<b>Not Concerned</b>	<b>2%</b>	2%	2%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Fewer Conflicts of Interests</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	<b>36%</b>	31%	43%
<b>No</b>	<b>23%</b>	19%	27%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>41%</b>	50%	30%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Public Finance In General</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	<b>31%</b>	26%	36%
<b>No</b>	<b>31%</b>	26%	38%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>38%</b>	48%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>N.C. Public Finance Favorability</b>				
<b>Strongly Favor</b>	<b>32%</b>	36%	26%	33%
<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	<b>30%</b>	26%	34%	33%
<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	<b>15%</b>	16%	16%	10%
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	<b>4%</b>	2%	7%	5%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>19%</b>	20%	18%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Accepting Finance Without Conflicts of Interests</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	<b>15%</b>	16%	12%	17%
<b>No</b>	<b>68%</b>	62%	76%	69%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>17%</b>	22%	12%	14%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Disclose Party Affiliation</b>				
<b>Disclose Party Affiliation</b>	53%	55%	54%	46%
<b>Talk About Issues</b>	39%	38%	39%	43%
<b>Not Sure</b>	7%	7%	7%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Stricter Spending Limits</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	68%	69%	67%	67%
<b>No</b>	10%	8%	12%	9%
<b>Not Sure</b>	22%	23%	21%	24%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Judicial Public Finance Favorability</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	24%	26%	17%	30%
<b>No</b>	49%	46%	54%	47%
<b>Not Sure</b>	28%	28%	29%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Contributions Influence Courts</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	69%	65%	69%	81%
<b>No</b>	13%	13%	16%	10%
<b>Not Sure</b>	18%	22%	16%	10%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Special Interest Groups Concern</b>				
<b>Very Concerned</b>	65%	58%	71%	72%
<b>Somewhat Concerned</b>	24%	28%	18%	21%
<b>Somewhat Unconcerned</b>	9%	10%	9%	6%
<b>Not Concerned</b>	2%	3%	2%	1%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Fewer Conflicts of Interests</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	36%	41%	29%	40%
<b>No</b>	23%	17%	30%	26%
<b>Not Sure</b>	41%	43%	42%	34%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Public Finance In General</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	31%	34%	26%	31%
<b>No</b>	31%	26%	39%	32%
<b>Not Sure</b>	38%	40%	36%	37%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>N.C. Public Finance Favorability</b>				
<b>Strongly Favor</b>	32%	30%	40%	38%
<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	30%	31%	27%	20%
<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	15%	16%	13%	12%
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	4%	4%	7%	-
<b>Not Sure</b>	19%	19%	14%	31%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Accepting Finance Without Conflicts of Interests</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	15%	15%	17%	9%
<b>No</b>	68%	69%	58%	77%
<b>Not Sure</b>	17%	16%	25%	14%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Disclose Party Affiliation</b>				
<b>Disclose Party Affiliation</b>	53%	55%	42%	56%
<b>Talk About Issues</b>	39%	38%	49%	37%
<b>Not Sure</b>	7%	7%	8%	7%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Stricter Spending Limits</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	68%	69%	60%	71%
<b>No</b>	10%	8%	22%	6%
<b>Not Sure</b>	22%	23%	18%	23%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Judicial Public Finance Favorability</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	24%	22%	30%	32%
<b>No</b>	49%	49%	45%	49%
<b>Not Sure</b>	28%	28%	24%	18%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Contributions Influence Courts</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	69%	70%	57%	88%
<b>No</b>	13%	12%	26%	9%
<b>Not Sure</b>	18%	19%	17%	2%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Special Interest Groups Concern</b>				
<b>Very Concerned</b>	65%	66%	54%	67%
<b>Somewhat Concerned</b>	24%	22%	29%	33%
<b>Somewhat Unconcerned</b>	9%	9%	10%	-
<b>Not Concerned</b>	2%	2%	7%	-

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Fewer Conflicts of Interests</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	36%	35%	43%	41%
<b>No</b>	23%	22%	21%	47%
<b>Not Sure</b>	41%	43%	37%	12%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Public Finance In General</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	31%	31%	31%	30%
<b>No</b>	31%	31%	33%	30%
<b>Not Sure</b>	38%	38%	36%	40%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>N.C. Public Finance Favorability</b>					
<b>Strongly Favor</b>	32%	28%	29%	34%	33%
<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	30%	28%	30%	32%	27%
<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	15%	19%	16%	12%	18%
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	4%	8%	4%	4%	0%
<b>Not Sure</b>	19%	17%	20%	18%	21%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Accepting Finance Without Conflicts of Interests</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	15%	8%	22%	13%	14%
<b>No</b>	68%	75%	62%	71%	64%
<b>Not Sure</b>	17%	17%	16%	16%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Disclose Party Affiliation</b>					
<b>Disclose Party Affiliation</b>	53%	47%	56%	58%	46%
<b>Talk About Issues</b>	39%	44%	37%	34%	47%
<b>Not Sure</b>	7%	8%	7%	8%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Stricter Spending Limits</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	68%	69%	76%	69%	55%
<b>No</b>	10%	17%	6%	9%	11%
<b>Not Sure</b>	22%	14%	18%	23%	34%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Judicial Public Finance Favorability</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	24%	36%	20%	22%	22%
<b>No</b>	49%	50%	53%	49%	44%
<b>Not Sure</b>	28%	14%	27%	30%	34%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Contributions Influence Courts</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	69%	72%	73%	70%	59%
<b>No</b>	13%	17%	13%	13%	12%
<b>Not Sure</b>	18%	11%	13%	18%	29%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Special Interest Groups Concern</b>					
<b>Very Concerned</b>	65%	53%	67%	66%	69%
<b>Somewhat Concerned</b>	24%	31%	23%	23%	20%
<b>Somewhat Unconcerned</b>	9%	14%	8%	8%	8%
<b>Not Concerned</b>	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Fewer Conflicts of Interests</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	36%	36%	38%	38%	32%
<b>No</b>	23%	28%	28%	22%	13%
<b>Not Sure</b>	41%	36%	34%	41%	55%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Public Finance In General</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>48%</b>

