

Judge of the Court of Common Pleas – Juvenile Division Candidates 2026 Questionnaire

Dayton Branch NAACP – Candidate Priority Questionnaire

Instructions: Please select the response that most closely reflects your position on each issue. These questions are intended to help voters understand your priorities and proposed approach to serving the citizens of Montgomery County, Ohio as a Judge of the Juvenile Division.

The respondent's email (**hope.smalls@gmail.com**) was recorded on submission of this form.

Email *

hope.smalls@gmail.com

Candidate First Name

Hope

Candidate Last Name

Smalls

Youth Violence Prevention & Intervention

What approach would you support to reduce youth violence, weapon use, and the likelihood that juveniles become involved in serious adult crimes?

- ☐ Expand early-intervention, mentoring, and violence-prevention programs for at-risk youth.
- ☐ Increase access to mental-health, trauma, and behavioral-health services for youth involved with the court.
- ☐ Expand accountability programs that combine consequences with rehabilitation and skill development.
- ☒ Use a comprehensive approach that combines prevention, intervention, rehabilitation, family engagement, and appropriate accountability.
- ☐ Other:

Transparency, Communication & Access to the Court

What would you do to improve transparency and communication between the Juvenile Court, families, attorneys, service providers, and the community?

- ☐ Provide clearer information about court procedures, available services, and case processes.
- ☐ Expand opportunities for families and community members to communicate with the court.
- ☐ Improve public access to information while protecting confidential juvenile records.
- ☒ Implement a comprehensive communication and transparency strategy that includes all of the above.
- ☐ Other:

Complex Custody, Parenting Time & Fatherhood

What approach would you support for complex custody and parenting-time cases while encouraging responsible parental involvement and strengthening fatherhood?

- ☐ Expand resources and services that help parents develop effective co-parenting relationships.
- ☐ Strengthen the Fatherhood Initiative and connect fathers with mentoring, employment, parenting, and family-support resources.
- ☐ Increase access to mediation and other services designed to resolve parenting disputes when appropriate.
- ☒ Develop a comprehensive approach combining all of the above while keeping the best interests of the child as the primary consideration.
- ☐ Other: _____

Re-Entry, Mental Health & Specialized Dockets

What would you prioritize to help juveniles successfully return to their families and communities after court involvement or placement?

- ☐ Expand re-entry planning and connections to education, employment, housing, and community-based services.
- ☒ Increase mental-health and trauma-support services for juveniles and their families.
- ☐ Strengthen specialized dockets and other court programs designed to address the underlying issues contributing to court involvement.
- ☐ Establish a coordinated re-entry system that combines all of the above.
- ☐ Other: _____

Court Access, Citizen Services & CASA

What would you do to improve access to Juvenile Court for families and individuals representing themselves while expanding advocacy for children?

- ☐ Restructure the Office of Citizen Services to provide more assistance and information to pro se litigants.
- ☐ Expand Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to provide greater advocacy and support for children involved in the court system.
- ☐ Increase courthouse access, education, and resources to help families better understand and navigate the court process.
- ☒ Implement a comprehensive access-to-justice strategy incorporating all of the above.
- ☐ Other: _____

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The respondent's email (**KeepJudgeSylvain@gmail.com**) was recorded on submission of this form.

Email *

KeepJudgeSylvain@gmail.com

Candidate First Name

Nicholas

Candidate Last Name

Sylvain

Youth Violence Prevention & Intervention

What approach would you support to reduce youth violence, weapon use, and the likelihood that juveniles become involved in serious adult crimes?

- ☐ Expand early-intervention, mentoring, and violence-prevention programs for at-risk youth.
- ☐ Increase access to mental-health, trauma, and behavioral-health services for youth involved with the court.
- ☐ Expand accountability programs that combine consequences with rehabilitation and skill development.
- ☒ Use a comprehensive approach that combines prevention, intervention, rehabilitation, family engagement, and appropriate accountability.
- ☐ Other:

Transparency, Communication & Access to the Court

What would you do to improve transparency and communication between the Juvenile Court, families, attorneys, service providers, and the community?

- ☐ Provide clearer information about court procedures, available services, and case processes.
- ☐ Expand opportunities for families and community members to communicate with the court.
- ☐ Improve public access to information while protecting confidential juvenile records.
- ☐ Implement a comprehensive communication and transparency strategy that includes all of the above.
- ☒ Other:
Expand cross-discipline collaboration with the Family Law Forum; regular communication & visitation opportunities with service providers; tours & communications opportunities with community organizations

Complex Custody, Parenting Time & Fatherhood

What approach would you support for complex custody and parenting-time cases while encouraging responsible parental involvement and strengthening fatherhood?

- ☐ Expand resources and services that help parents develop effective co-parenting relationships.
- ☐ Strengthen the Fatherhood Initiative and connect fathers with mentoring, employment, parenting, and family-support resources.
- ☐ Increase access to mediation and other services designed to resolve parenting disputes when appropriate.
- ☐ Develop a comprehensive approach combining all of the above while keeping the best interests of the child as the primary consideration.
- ☒ Other:
Establishing a dedicated docket for complex custody & parenting time cases directly handed by the Judge instead of Magistrates; Expand collaboration with the Fatherhood Initiative

Re-Entry, Mental Health & Specialized Dockets

What would you prioritize to help juveniles successfully return to their families and communities after court involvement or placement?

- ☐ Expand re-entry planning and connections to education, employment, housing, and community-based services.
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- ☐ Strengthen specialized dockets and other court programs designed to address the underlying issues contributing to court involvement.
- ☒ Establish a coordinated re-entry system that combines all of the above.
- ☐ Other: _____

Court Access, Citizen Services & CASA

What would you do to improve access to Juvenile Court for families and individuals representing themselves while expanding advocacy for children?

- ☐ Restructure the Office of Citizen Services to provide more assistance and information to pro se litigants.
- ☐ Expand Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to provide greater advocacy and support for children involved in the court system.
- ☐ Increase courthouse access, education, and resources to help families better understand and navigate the court process.
- ☐ Implement a comprehensive access-to-justice strategy incorporating all of the above.
- ☒ Other:
Collaborate with legal partners to expand access to legal assistance for self-represented parties;
Continue & expand the court's YouTube channel with explanations of rights/court hearings for common case types

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