

Judge of the Court of Common Pleas – Probate 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 Probate Division.

The respondent's email (info@votericeforjudge.com) was recorded on submission of this form.

Email *

info@votericeforjudge.com

Candidate First Name

Cassandra

Candidate Last Name

Rice

Access to Legal Resources & Court Services

What approach would you support to expand access to free legal resources and ensure that residents, particularly those with limited financial resources, better understand their rights and the services available through Probate Court?

- ☐ Expand partnerships with legal-aid organizations and community-based providers while increasing public education about available resources.
- ☐ Expand court-provided information and self-help resources while maintaining existing partnerships with outside legal-service organizations.
- ☐ Establish a dedicated Probate Court outreach program to provide information about rights, procedures, and available legal resources in the community.
- ☐ Maintain the current system while focusing additional resources on individuals who are already involved in Probate Court proceedings.

☒ Other:

Above all, the Court must remain a neutral arbiter of facts, which makes its role in providing information to the public difficult to navigate. While the Court can facilitate the delivery of information by providing printouts, computers, printers, pamphlets, and other resources that aid self-help, the information and guidance must come from sources outside of the court. This is why a mix of the responses is best: expansion of partnerships with legal-aid, community-based providers, and others, while maintaining the existing Resource Center.

Mental Health, State Hospital & Housing

How would you strengthen Probate Court's response to individuals experiencing serious mental-health challenges, including increasing the court's presence at the new State Hospital and connecting individuals with appropriate housing resources?

- ☐ Establish a stronger Probate Court presence at the hospital and develop partnerships to connect individuals with treatment and stable housing.
- ☐ Increase coordination between the court, behavioral-health providers, and housing agencies on a case-by-case basis.
- ☒ Expand court-based mental-health resources while prioritizing housing referrals for individuals leaving institutional care.
- ☐ Maintain existing services while identifying opportunities for additional partnerships as resources become available.
- ☐ Other:

Data, Transparency & Equity

What approach would you support to increase data-driven transparency in the Probate Division and evaluate whether court processes and outcomes are being applied equitably?

- ☐ Regularly collect and publicly report demographic and case-outcome data, while protecting confidential information, to identify disparities and improve court practices.
- ☐ Conduct periodic internal reviews of case outcomes and court procedures and implement corrective action when disparities are identified.
- ☐ Expand data collection primarily for administrative purposes and provide public reports when legally and practically appropriate.
- ☐ Maintain current reporting practices while responding to specific concerns about unequal outcomes as they arise.

☒ Other:

Disparities often arise out of the exercise of judicial discretion, which makes analytical reporting based on demographic data or case outcomes difficult. Inconsistencies in equity and treatment will most frequently be identified through internal reviews of fact-based outcomes after court procedures are implemented. Due to the confidential nature of some probate cases, public reporting may not always be appropriate; however, transparency in the court's practices is critical to building trust in the system.

Clerk Training, Accountability & Judicial Decisions

Which approach would you support to improve the consistency and effectiveness of Probate Court operations, including clerk training, application of court rules, accountability, and the quality of judicial decisions?

- ☒ Establish standardized training, written procedures, regular performance reviews, and clear accountability measures for court personnel.
- ☐ Increase continuing education and provide additional guidance to clerks while maintaining existing administrative procedures.
- ☐ Conduct periodic reviews of court operations and judicial decisions to identify errors, inconsistencies, and opportunities for improvement.
- ☐ Focus primarily on reducing avoidable appeals by strengthening procedures for ensuring decisions are accurate, thorough, and well-reasoned.
- ☐ Other:

Diversity, Inclusion & Stewardship of Public Resources

How would you promote diversity and inclusion throughout the Probate Division while ensuring responsible stewardship of county funds and maintaining effective court administration?

- ☒ Establish measurable diversity and inclusion goals, regularly evaluate court practices, and identify efficiencies that improve services without unnecessary increases in county spending.
- ☐ Expand diversity and inclusion training while maintaining existing administrative and budgetary practices.
- ☐ Prioritize investments that directly improve public access and court services while reviewing expenditures for efficiency and accountability.
- ☐ Continue the current Court Administration practices while identifying opportunities for improvement as needs and resources change.
- ☐ Other:

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

Email *

brannonforjudge@gmail.com

Candidate First Name

David

Candidate Last Name

Brannon

Access to Legal Resources & Court Services

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- ☐ Maintain the current system while focusing additional resources on individuals who are already involved in Probate Court proceedings.
- ☒ Other:
Maintain the full-time lawyer and assistant, while expanding partnerships with legal-aid and community-based organizations. Also outreach/ education.

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