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NOVEMBER 2020 PRIMARY RESULTS FOR JUDICIAL RETENTION AND VACANCIES ON THE ILLINOIS SUPREME AND APPELLATE COURTS AND THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

COOK COUNTY, IL—Every six years, sitting Circuit Court Judges in Cook County must be elected for retention by the public to remain on the bench; Illinois Appellate and Supreme Court Justices face retention every ten years. This year, Cook County voters were asked to make retention decisions about 62 sitting judges on the Cook County and Illinois Appellate Courts. Judges must receive 60% of the vote to remain on the bench.

The 2018 election marked the first time in almost 30 years that a sitting Cook County Judge lost a retention election, and this year, all but one of the judges seeking retention were retained. Based on the most recent publicly-available information from the Chicago Board of Elections and the Cook County Clerk – with all Chicago and suburban precincts reporting – almost 51% of voters elected not to retain Mauricio Araujo, although he had resigned before the election after the Judicial Inquiry Board found clear and convincing evidence of his harassment of women. Cook County Judge Patricia Manila Martin announced her retirement prior to the election, so the Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening¹ did not evaluate her, but because Judge Martin’s name remained on the ballot, she was elected for retention by over 63% of voters.

Cook County voters were asked to make decisions about hundreds of sitting or potential judges in 2020. An overwhelming 177 judicial candidates ran for 37 judicial vacancies during the Illinois primary election in March 2020, though only two of those vacancies resulted in contested races (along with the retention elections) on the November 3. Active voter participation in judicial elections is important for our democracy—no matter the outcome. To provide a non-partisan outlet for voters to understand and stay informed about complex judicial issues, Chicago Appleseed compiles candidate evaluations from the Alliance of Bar Associations and the Chicago Bar Association, as well endorsements of local media outlets, on VoteForJudges.org.

VoteForJudges.org was visited by over 85,000 people in 2020—more than 62,123 people during the retention cycle alone. While essentially every judge was retained, drop offs in the proportion of ‘YES’ retention votes for those judges found ‘unqualified’ and/or ‘not recommended’ by at least one Alliance Bar Association or outside community organization were distinct, signaling the successes of equitable organizing for civic education and a significant buy-in from Cook County voters. This process has amazing potential to improve the transparency and accessibility of our court system and the accountability of judges and other system actors. As stated by Chicago Appleseed Executive Director, Malcolm Rich: “Community engagement in judicial elections is absolutely essential and through VoteForJudges.org, we will continue to support that mission however possible.”

To stay updated about judicial elections and the functioning of the Cook County and Illinois courts, please follow Chicago Appleseed on Twitter ([@ChiAppleseed](https://twitter.com/ChiAppleseed)), Facebook (www.facebook.com/ChicagoAppleseed), and LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com/company/ChicagoAppleseed), or visit www.ChicagoAppleseed.org.

¹ Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening includes the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Chicago Area, Black Women Lawyer’s Association of Greater Chicago, Cook County Bar Association, Chicago Council of Lawyers, Decalogue Society of Lawyers, Hellenic Bar Association of Illinois, Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois, Illinois State Bar Association, Lesbian and Gay Bar Association, Puerto Rican Bar Association, and Women’s Bar Association. These bar groups work collaboratively but publish independent evaluations of judicial candidates’ performances and recommendations as to whether they are qualified to be or remain a judge.

NOVEMBER 2020 RETENTION ELECTION RESULTS

The information below reflects the election results as of November 8, 2020, with all precincts (1,599 suburban and 2,069 in Chicago) reporting, according to the Cook County Clerk and the Chicago Board of Elections. Candidates with an asterisk* next to their name were found either 'UNQUALIFIED' or 'NOT RECOMMENDED' by one or more of the Alliance Bar Associations. Contact Stephanie Agnew (sagnew@chicagoappleseed.org) or Chicago Appleseed (caffj@chicagoappleseed.org) with questions or comments.

	% YES	# YES	% NO	# NO
RETENTION – ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT				
Aurelia Marie Pucinski	76.82%	1,230,310	23.18%	371,141
Mary Katherine Rochford	74.90%	1,113,045	25.10%	372,964
RETENTION – CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY				
Michael P. Toomin	61.85%	961,955	38.15%	593,284
James Patrick Flannery, Jr.	74.46%	1,110,378	25.54%	380,858
Mary Ellen Coghlan	76.14%	1,124,968	23.86%	352,541
Shelley Lynn Sutker-Dermer	74.58%	1,093,354	25.42%	372,636
Patricia Manila Martin	63.03%	927,989	36.97%	544,245
Kenneth J. Wadas	65.43%	960,436	34.57%	507,396
Gregory J. Wojkowski	72.17%	1,057,447	27.83%	407,700
Robert E. Gordon	77.35%	1,128,498	22.65%	330,401
Lewis Nixon	74.77%	1,083,239	25.23%	365,602
Margaret Ann Brennan	72.41%	1,058,086	27.59%	403,083
Janet Adams Brosnahan	75.53%	1,094,921	24.47%	354,776
Peter A. Felice	70.87%	1,021,017	29.13%	419,656
Kerry M. Kennedy	71.49%	1,043,199	28.51%	416,031
Cassandra Lewis	77.09%	1,118,981	22.91%	332,493
Laura Marie Sullivan	72.86%	1,059,063	27.14%	394,574
Raul Vega	75.24%	1,091,416	24.76%	359,131
Michael B. Hyman	75.24%	1,087,209	24.76%	357,692
Joan E. Powell	76.76%	1,105,910	23.24%	334,889
Patrick J. Sherlock	70.01%	1,005,613	29.99%	430,755
Maureen Ward Kirby	77.75%	1,117,459	22.25%	319,706
Edwards A. Arce	73.76%	1,053,932	26.24%	374,926
James N. O'Hara	74.50%	1,072,198	25.50%	366,999
Mauricio Araujo*	49.19%	726,204	50.81%	750,019



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Thomas J. Byrne	69.84%	1,006,431	30.16%	434,598
Ann Collins-Dole	78.05%	1,119,575	21.95%	314,847
Donna L. Cooper	79.56%	1,145,526	20.44%	294,352
Anna Helen Demacopoulos	70.22%	1,016,760	29.78%	431,167
Diana L. Kenworthy	77.39%	1,110,120	22.61%	324,293
Pamela Elizabeth Loza	77.84%	1,123,453	22.16%	319,778
Jackie Marie Portman-Brown*	60.46%	890,528	39.54%	582,360
Dominique C. Ross	76.16%	1,096,553	23.84%	343,279
Kristyna Colleen Ryan	77.59%	1,115,418	22.41%	322,162
Debra B. Walker	79.93%	1,152,669	20.07%	289,388
Ursula Walowski	59.25%	1,071,740	40.75%	737,105
Anthony C. Kyriakopoulos	71.69%	1,030,553	28.31%	406,863
Caroline Kate Moreland	74.53%	1,068,392	25.47%	365,024
Thomas J. Carroll	74.86%	1,073,076	25.14%	360,416
Cynthia Cobbs	79.50%	1,147,136	20.50%	295,817
Daniel J. Kubasiak*	65.85%	949,859	34.15%	492,591
Andrea M. Buford	77.91%	1,113,786	22.09%	315,781
Pamela McLean Meyerson	77.82%	1,114,158	22.18%	317,496
Chris Lawler	74.28%	1,060,606	25.72%	367,195
John Michael Allegretti	72.28%	1,034,229	27.72%	396,654
Kristal Rivers	77.60%	1,113,251	22.40%	321,329
Steven G. Watkins	76.19%	1,088,184	23.81%	339,993
Abbey Fishman Romanek	75.78%	1,085,306	24.22%	346,892
William B. Raines	73.83%	1,053,427	26.17%	373,373
Judith C. Rice	77.66%	1,117,233	22.34%	321,317
Patrick Kevin Coughlin	73.57%	1,052,927	26.43%	378,245
John Curry	73.74%	1,055,272	26.26%	375,743
Megan Elizabeth Goldish	70.98%	1,025,715	29.02%	419,449
Anjana Hansen	76.07%	1,078,692	23.93%	339,273



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Robert D. Kuzas	70.06%	989,286	29.94%	422,681
John J. Mahoney*	60.77%	874,294	39.23%	564,303
Maritza Martinez	79.64%	1,140,964	20.36%	291,686
Terrence J. McGuire	76.75%	1,084,292	23.25%	328,551
Bridget Anne Mitchell	79.53%	1,128,589	20.47%	290,520
James Paul Pieczonka	70.08%	993,716	29.92%	424,305
Diana Rosario*	67.12%	972,358	32.88%	476,299
Patricia O'Brien Sheahan	78.25%	1,132,551	21.75%	314,825

VACANCIES – CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

JUDICIAL SUBCIRCUIT 12 (HANLON)

Patricia M. Fallon	47.92%	63,186
Frank R. DiFranco	52.08%	68,668

JUDICIAL SUBCIRCUIT 13 (KULYS HOFFMAN)

Susanne Michele Groebner*	52.49%	66,167
Gary William Seyring	47.51%	59,894

