

Candidate Vetting Questionnaire

Please complete and return by July 5, 2024

Email to: wexcountygop@yahoo.com

Mail to: Wexford GOP, 203 E Division St, Cadillac, MI 49601

Name: Circuit Judge Patrick William O'Grady

Public Office Candidacy (Role Title): Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court 4 yr Term

Incumbent or New Candidate? New Candidate

1) Tell us why you are running for public office. What are your goals and vision?
What qualifications do you bring to the role?

Qualifications:

- Judiciary - Circuit Court Judge 15 years
- Executive Branch - 14 years combined as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Michigan State Trooper

Running For Office:

- As a senior trial judge I have seen our Supreme Court go from a Court with highly experienced judges, a Rule of Law Court and a Constitutional Court with a high level understanding of textualist interpretation, to now become a court of lawyers and legislators with absolutely no judicial experience and a disregard for the above principles.

Goals and Vision:

- To be part of a rebuilding of the Court to be again the superior court it once was by applying the above principles which the court once held.

2) Do you have experience as an elected official? If so, please tell us about that position and experience.

Elected in 2008 to 15th Circuit Court bench taking office in Jan. 2009.

Experience: I am the 15th Circuit Court Judge and this is my 16th year presiding as a Senior Trial Judge in the highest trial court in the State of Michigan. I have presided over 14,000 cases including felony jury trials (i.e. open murder, child abuse, robbery, kidnapping etc.) and further including high value civil cases. I also serve as the Chief of the Family Law Division and have presided as the Chief Judge for the District, Circuit and Probate Court on several occasions appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court.

3) How would you describe your voting history since you registered as a voter? Have you previously voted for candidates affiliated with other parties? If so, please explain.

I have always voted for the Republican Party since first eligible to vote in Nov 1988. I have NEVER voted for a person of another party.

4) Please tell us about your activity as a Republican.

Due to my position as a Circuit Judge I have been non-partisan since joining the bench in January of 2009, but was an active Republican before that, serving as a member of the Executive Committee of the Branch County Republican party.

As a judge I continued to attend Republican events for continued support.

5) Describe experiences where you were engaged in service to others, such as not for-profit organizations, clubs, churches, boards, etc.

- Hillsdale College Law Enforcement Outreach - Volunteer Staff for Constitutional Instruction and Outreach
- Hillsdale College Career Services volunteer and lecturer
- Member of St Paul Lutheran Church Coldwater MI
- Served as President and Vice President of the Branch County Bar Association
- Coldwater Community Schools Foundation Member
- 4 H Foundation Board of Directors
- Max Larsen Elementary Boosters
- A.Y.S.O. Soccer Coach
- Coldwater Travel Soccer Coach
- Coldwater Little League Coach
- Jefferson Elementary Community Built Playground Committee

6) You've indicated on your candidate affidavit that your party affiliation is Republican. Do you support all aspects of the Republican platform? Please elaborate.

Historically, I have always supported the platform. I have done so as a State Trooper, a Prosecuting Attorney, and as a former member of the Branch County GOP Executive Committee. However when elected to the Circuit Court in 2008 I left all partisan activity as required in Michigan while serving in the Judiciary.

7) What is the purpose of government?

Unfortunately governmental overreaching has created a landscape of individual liberties and rights being curtailed. When the purpose of government is just the opposite. It is created to secure and protect our rights received by us from God our creator.

8) Please explain your view on upholding the Oath of Office.

I have taken the Oath of Office as a Judge, an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, a State Trooper and a US Army Reserve Officer.

Upholding an Oath in my view is a sacred promise to all. Numbers 30:2 If a man vows a vow to the Lord, or swears an Oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

9) How will you make yourself available to constituents, if elected? What is your plan to ensure your constituents are heard and their concerns are addressed?

I have and will always continue to be out in the public and be available to the public. However the judiciary is not allowed to communicate with those who have cases pending before the court for the court must maintain impartiality.

10) Please explain, in your own words, the role and responsibilities of the office you're seeking, and outline how you intend to address each of the primary duties of that office.

The Supreme Court has Superintending Control over all of the lower courts. It has a rule making function and a supervisory function that controls in part how the courts operate at the County level. This is probably the main area that a judicial candidate can expound upon for change without drawing a later motion to be recused from a case due to public comment. What I have seen over the last 15 years however more recently has become a top down model and a one size fits all ruling system that continues to creep into local court operations. This model ignores the local judges' understanding of what the community and parties needs. And instead attempts to have a court that services 50k people versus a county that services 1.7 million people all treat the process the same. Top down uniformity can sometimes lead to unnecessary disparity.

Rule of Law is easy!! Do not legislate from the bench, Do not be a judicial activist. Remember your Oath with every breath and apply the Rule of Law and uphold the Constitution of both the United States and Our Michigan. Follow the Dozen Canons of Statutory and Constitutional Text Construction as noted in the number one thesis for Judges: Reading Law: The Interpretation of Legal Texts, authored by Justice Antonin Scalia and Bryan Garner.

Thank you very much for taking the time to answer these vital questions. Your thoughtful response aids the Wexford County Republican Committee, our precinct delegates, committee members and constituents in promoting, endorsing and voting to elect Republican candidates that will ensure the will of We The People.

In Liberty!

Emily DeBoer
Chair, Wexford County Republican Committee