

County Court Judge

Candidate (Group 3) Questions – 2024

Name: ___Michael G. Powell _____ Date: ___6/14/24 ___

What do you believe distinguishes an exceptional judge, and how do your qualifications align with those standards?

I have practiced law for over 28 years and had the opportunity to appear in many different courtrooms around our state before many different judges. I have seen how efficient and fair courtrooms are run and more importantly how a judge should treat and interact with the public, attorneys, clerks and court personnel appearing before them daily.

As a former State prosecutor for nearly 10 years, I know what it is like to stand beside the victim of a crime and their families. During my 18 years of private practice, I also know the feeling of navigating a client and their family through often difficult and complex legal matters. Having extensive experience on both sides of the courtroom, sets me apart from other candidates for county judge.

I will be a fair, efficient, and respectful judge, as that is my nature. Judicial temperament is perhaps one the most important factors in selecting the right candidate to sit on the bench. A judge who is continually moody, quick tempered and short with people does nothing but erode the public trust and confidence in the court system. I believe I also possess a large amount of common sense which too often gets lost in the legal system.

I am a staunch and fierce defender of the Constitution and the rule of law. I am also a firm believer in the personal rights, freedom, and liberties afforded to us

by our founders. The Judicial branch is in many ways the last line of defense to ensure that everyone keeps those rights and freedoms.

How do you plan to ensure fairness and impartiality in your decisions while serving as a judge in Charlotte County?

A Judge's role is like that of an umpire in baseball, they are there to call balls and strikes impartially.

With the years of experience, I have on both sides of a courtroom, fairness and impartiality is something that is instilled early on as an attorney. There is by necessity a certain emotional detachment that we demand of attorney's who are trusted to apply reasoned judgment and experience in guiding a client through the legal process.

What initiatives or reforms do you propose to enhance access to justice and improve the efficiency of the judicial process in our community?

One area of improvement I would like to implement is the ability to get parties and witnesses in and out of the court house in a timelier manner.

Very often for example, a witness of a traffic accident or in a small claims case is subpoenaed to court for a hearing and may wait in the courtroom for hours to be called.

I believe this can be accomplished through staggering the docket with more specific time frames for cases and prioritizing the docket as best possible to alleviate a long wait.

Please answer each question in 300 words or less and email back to bwhite@charlottecountychamber.org on or before July 12, 2024.



**Charlotte County
Chamber of Commerce**