

Joe McNamara



Office: Lucas County – Lucas County Court of Common Pleas – General Division

Age: 41

Residence: Toledo, OH

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Website: www.mcnamaraforjudge.com; Facebook @McNamaraforJudge

Occupation: Assistant Law Director, City of Toledo

Education: J.D. New York University, School of Law

Work Experience: Attorney since 2003

Family: Married, 3 dogs (Honey, Bit and Walter), Licensed Foster Parent

Affiliations: Member of Christ the King Catholic Church

Endorsements: Lucas County Democratic Party, Northwest Ohio Building Trades Council, Toledo Firefighters Local 92, Sheet Metal Workers Local 33, Ironworkers Local 55

Bar Association Ratings: N/A

(1) List your judicial experience (courts and years):

Judicial Votes Count



WHAT'S AT STAKE?

In 2018, Ohio voters elected judges to the Supreme Court of Ohio and all 12 districts of the Court of Appeals, as well as most courts of common pleas and county courts.

Election Results

2019 Voter Registration Deadlines

For Primary Election: April 8, 2019

For General Election: Oct. 7, 2019

[Register to Vote Online or Update Your Name/Address Here](#)

2019 Election Dates

Primary Election: May 7, 2019

General Election: Nov. 5, 2019

Polls are open on Election Days from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

CONTACT US



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First-time judicial candidate.

(2) What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

Voting is one of our most precious rights. Preventing people from becoming disenfranchised is perhaps one of my greatest legal accomplishments. In 2004, I was part of a legal team that brought a federal lawsuit against Ohio election officials for failing to follow the Help America Vote Act. This litigation successfully protected the right to vote in Ohio and was an eye-opening experience for me as to why we need judges who understand the importance of the right to vote and will uphold the law. I am a life-long member of this community and care very much about its future.

While I have experience in the private sector, I find myself continually drawn to public service. In addition to serving on many boards over the years, I served on Toledo City Council from 2006 to 2013 and was twice elected President, while maintaining a private law practice. This local legislative experience gives me an excellent perspective in interpreting laws. On Council, I drafted or helped pass many pieces of legislation including the Energy Special Improvement District ordinance, the anti-human trafficking ordinance, and an ordinance to decrease the cost of public records requests. As Council President, I maintained order and decorum over a legislative body. I facilitated an environment where everyone was heard, debate was civil and decisions were made. My legal practice has included a diverse array of clients and matters. I have represented clients in both civil and criminal cases. I have experienced large law-firm life and a solo practice.

Currently I work as an Assistant Law Director for the City of Toledo and represent the City in various courts including Lucas County Common Pleas, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio and the Ohio Supreme Court. I have litigated multi-million dollar disputes as well as matters in small claims. No matter the issue, every case is important to those individuals who come before the court and they deserve to have their matters heard by an impartial judge. My experience has taught me to listen, apply the law fairly and treat everyone with dignity and respect. I view this opportunity as a continuance of my service to the community and an exercise of my passion for the law.

(3) Why are you running for this particular court seat?

Simply put, this seat has a critical and far-reaching impact on implementing justice and maintaining public safety in our community. I have a passion for the law. One of the greatest draws for me to become a lawyer is the intellectual challenge. I love working on difficult legal problems and finding the correct legal conclusion. A large part of the challenge is to find the right words to communicate the conclusion as simply and clearly as possible. I especially enjoy legal issues involving the Rules of Evidence.

The Lucas County Court of Common Pleas is a trial court of general jurisdiction. This means that the legal issues before the court are diverse and interesting. The court, however, also takes testimony from witnesses. The taking of testimony requires a judge to know the Rules of Evidence very well and quickly make decisions to ensure that the law is being followed correctly and faithfully. I know that this seat is intellectually challenging and am excited to do the work that is so crucial to creating a fair and impartial judiciary.

Project Partners: Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron The Ohio State Bar Association
The League of Women Voters of Ohio The Ohio News Media Association The Ohio Association of Broadcasters