



JUDGE JENNIFER BRUNNER

for Ohio Supreme Court

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Judge, Tenth District Court of Appeals
and former Ohio Secretary of State

CANDIDATE FOR THE OHIO SUPREME COURT IN 2020

Why did you choose to run for the office of Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court?

I chose to run for this office for three reasons: First, I want to be a part of a court that ensures that the first decision interpreting the state constitution's new provisions for fair districts for Congress and the Ohio General Assembly, when challenged—and they in all likelihood will be, are fair and according to state constitutional requirements. As Secretary of State, my office sponsored a public contest to draw districts according to a formula that served as a basis for developing the state constitution's formula for fair districts, and we proved that it can be done. Nothing is more basic to the health of Ohio's democracy than fair districts, and I want to participate in that process. My experience will help me do that to the benefit of the court, the rule of law and, most importantly, the people of the State of Ohio.

Second, there are important issues such as when a police officer can make an individual get out of his or her car, under what circumstances criminal records can be sealed or expunged, when someone's home can be taken through foreclosure or what is appropriate in applying legislative caps on damages (such as for repeated rapes of a child by a trusted pastor) so that the gravity of the offense(s) is reflected in the damages. These issues are just a few that affect everyday people in Ohio, though they rarely realize how drastically they are affected by just the words of the state's highest court.

Third, I have found that when there is a political balance on an appellate court, the tendency to "group think" is less likely to happen and better decisions emerge that involve the give-and-take of views and the softening of others through reasoned and respectful discussion and decision making. Currently, the political balance on the state's highest court is a state of unbalance with 5 Republicans and 2 Democrats. A 4-3 balance either way would, in my view, create an atmosphere of cooperation for some of the best decisions possible from the court. I hope to help provide that balance to the court with my election.

Website: jenniferbrunner.com (see also: judgebrunner.com)

Of Interest: Judge Jennifer Brunner worked in 2012 – 2015 in the Republic of Serbia as a USAID State Department rule of law expert on judicial reform and anti-corruption, observed 3 Egyptian elections for the U.S. government and taught at the bar association in Colombo, Sri Lanka as a USAID State Department rule of law expert. This has given the judge a unique opportunity to understand the important role of the judiciary to maintaining an effective rule of law in a society.

See page 2 for biographical information

Opponent: Justice Judi French (Republican) from Columbus by way of Sebring, Ohio, appointed by Governor Kasich in 2013 and elected in 2014

Current makeup of Ohio Supreme Court:

Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor (Republican) – term ends 2022, leaving Chief Justice seat open for 2022 election
Justices French and Kennedy (Republican) – terms end 2020 – this year's 2 seats up for election
Justices Donnelly and Stewart (Democratic) – terms end 2024 – elected in 2018
Justices Fischer and Dewine (Republican) – terms end 2022 – elected in 2016

Brunner bio by the numbers:

- **5 years** as appellate judge – current position (10th District Court of Appeals, Franklin County, also handling state administrative appeals from all over Ohio, unlike the other districts)
- **4 years** as Ohio's first female Secretary of State
- **1st** Ohioan to receive bipartisan JFK Profile in Courage Award—in 2008 for Secretary of State work
- **5 years** as common pleas court judge (Franklin County Common Pleas Court—general division—started felony drug court in 2004)
- **17 years** in private practice—started law firm from corner of bedroom when kids were 7, 4 and 2
- **3** statewide campaigns (including this one)
- **4** countywide campaigns
- **0** times lost a general election
- **42 years** married to Rick Brunner from Columbiana County (farm boy now lawyer)
- **3** children
- **5** (almost 6) grandchildren
- **2** dogs
- **3** cats

Issues:

- **GERRYMANDERING:** Ohio Supreme Court will perform constitutional review of any challenged redistricting and reapportionment plans after the 2020 census, according to new state constitutional formulas
- **RACISM:** Ohio Supreme Court plans to adopt a statewide database of criminal sentencing and other data county-by-county, according to demographic factors such as race, gender, income, zip code and the like to help ensure uniformity and toward eliminating racism in Ohio's criminal justice system; this is important to our shared future
- **RANGE OF CASES:** Ohio Supreme Court decides cases ranging from insurance coverage, to business disputes, to workers compensation law, to search and seizure by police officers, to foreclosures, to criminal record expungement, to election and voting disputes – and more
- **ACCEPTING JURISDICTION:** Ohio Supreme Court can decide which cases it takes for review – the high court has decreased the number of appeals it decides to review since 2013 from 7 per 100 to 6 per 100 – access to justice requires more access to being heard

You can find JENNIFER BRUNNER on these social media:

Facebook page: [BrunnerCommittee](#)
Facebook grassroots organizing page: [JudgeBrunnerforOhioSupremeCourt](#)
Twitter: [@JenniferBrunner](#)
Instagram: [JenniferLBrunner](#)
LinkedIn: [JenniferBrunner](#)