



**Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center**  
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

# **Wyoming State Bar Judicial Performance Assessment, 2026**

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# Wyoming State Bar Judicial Performance Assessment, 2026

By

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## 1. Introduction

In the fall of 2025, the Wyoming State Bar commissioned the Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center (WYSAC) at the University of Wyoming to administer the 2026 Wyoming Judicial Performance Assessment (JPA).

The Wyoming State Bar undertook its first judicial evaluation poll in 1976 and has completed one each election year since. The goals and uses of the Wyoming JPA conform to the American Bar Association (ABA) guidelines and the practices of other Bar associations.

Judicial evaluation polls are used by Bar associations to provide feedback to judicial officials about their performance on the bench and to help the public make more informed judgments in judicial retention elections.

As was the case in the past eleven iterations, the 2026 JPA was administered as a web-only survey with email invitations sent to all Bar Association members in Wyoming.

The 2026 assessment covered 56 judicial officials: five Supreme Court Justices, 27 District Court Judges, one Chancery Court Judge, and 23 Circuit Court Judges. Of these, 21 were standing for retention in the 2026 general election (two Supreme Court Justices, eight District Court Judges, the Chancery Court Judge, and ten Circuit Court Judges).

The poll was launched on August 11, 2026, with an email invitation for participation. Prior to this initial email invitation, Sharon Wilkinson, Executive Director of the Wyoming State Bar, emailed all attorneys to inform them of the upcoming survey and explain the importance of the project. Reminder emails were sent roughly every week to all attorneys who had not yet responded with completed surveys. Four reminder emails were sent to all attorneys who had not yet completed a survey. In addition to these reminders, WYSAC sent personalized follow-up emails to attorneys who had not yet completed the survey, tailored to how far each attorney had progressed (for example, attorneys with partially completed surveys and attorneys who had not yet opened the survey).

The survey closed on September 22, 2026. The originally announced deadline of September 14 was extended by one week to allow additional attorneys to complete the survey. After closing, the online database was exported into a format suitable for data analysis. A total of 521 attorneys accessed the online survey (compared to 586 in 2024). A total of 400 valid completions were obtained before the cut-off date (compared to 417 in 2024), and an additional 59 partial responses were retained in the final data file because a substantial portion of the survey had been completed. Of the 1,640 attorneys on the original list, 42 could not be reached because their email address was undeliverable or they had left the listed position, 8 reported they were ineligible because they had made no appearances before a Wyoming judge in the past 24 months, and 6 declined to participate. This left 1,584 potentially eligible respondents. With 400 completed surveys, the response rate is 25.3% (compared to 25% in 2024). Including the 59 retained partial responses, the response rate is 29.0%.

## 2. Results

The following page presents the individual results for all judges. The *judge's version* of this report contains open-ended responses from attorneys for each judge; these comments are provided anonymously to each judge and not publicly released.

Instructions were provided to all attorneys before each section asking them to rate each item on a five-point scale, where 1 stands for “Strongly Disapprove,” 2 for “Somewhat Disapprove,” 3 for “Neither Approve nor Disapprove,” 4 for “Somewhat Approve,” and 5 for “Strongly Approve.” Mean scores can therefore range from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest and most favorable rating. No Opinion responses are reported separately and are not included in the number of respondents, the percentages, or the mean scores.

Court averages shown alongside each judge’s results pool all responses received for every judge in that court, so judges rated by more attorneys contribute proportionally more to the court average. Retention comparisons pool only the judges in that court who are standing for retention, and appear in the *judge’s version* of this report only.