

Sample Candidate Questions for Judicial Positions
(Determine what cases a particular court covers and ask questions that may be related to these types of cases.)

City Judge	What is the role of the city judge?	General
City Judge	What qualifications do you have to serve as a city court judge?	Qualifications
City Judge	What suggestions do you have to improve the operations of the City Court?	Management
City Judge	The city is growing geographically with an increasing population. What impact do you see this growth having on the City Court and/or the office of the City Court Judge?	Management
City Judge	What are the most important challenges facing our city and how do you propose to address them?	Management
County Judge	Please describe your first-hand experiences, if any, working with people who are different from you socially, economically, or politically?	Qualifications
County Judge	What are your views on whether the court deals effectively with racial and gender bias?	Diversity
County Judge	Do you believe that all citizens have adequate access to the legal system and legal assistance? If not, what can be done to provide wider and better access?	Equity
County Judge	What ideas do you have to improve the court you would oversee?	Management
County Judge Any judge	While serving on the bench, do you believe you have a role in bringing important legal or judicial issues before the public or the legislature? Why or why not? What should your role be?	General
County Judge Any Judge	What is your general judicial philosophy?	Qualifications
County Judge	What qualifies you to be a judge beyond a law degree?	Qualifications
County Judge	How will you ensure equity for people of all backgrounds in your courtroom?	Diversity
County Judge	How will you balance being an independent judge and an elected official?	Qualifications
County Judge	What improvements, if any, would you make within XXXX County court procedures? Please explain.	Management
Circuit Court	How has your work in the Superior Court prepared you for the Circuit Court?	Qualifications
Circuit Court	Besides continuing the Restoration Court, what other “problem-solving” courts would you like to see under the Circuit Court?	Management
Circuit Court	What qualities and/or experience do you have that make you the best candidate for this office?	Qualifications
Circuit Court	What is the most important issue the judicial system in Tippecanoe County is facing inside or outside of the courtroom?	Management
Circuit Court	What plans do you have to improve the operations of the court?	Management

Circuit Court	What can the courts do to relieve or reduce the foreclosures and evictions in order to help provide more secure housing for the citizens of XXXX County?	Management
Superior Court	What would you do to streamline cases for quicker resolutions?	Management
Superior Court	What are you most proud of in your term with the Superior Court?	Qualifications
Superior Court	What changes or expansions of “problem-solving” courts would you like to see?	Management
Superior Court	What qualities and/or experience do you have that make you the best candidate for this office?	Qualifications
Superior Court	What is the most important issue the judicial system in XXX County is facing inside or outside of the courtroom?	Management
Superior Court	What plans do you have to improve the operations of the court?	Management
Any court	What do you believe to be the root causes for juvenile offenders? How might you address this?	Knowledge
Any court	In regards to the area of hate crimes, what are some of the issues in balancing free speech rights with the need to control threatening behavior?	Knowledge
Any court	What factors are considered in granting and setting bail amounts for defendants?	Knowledge
Any court	Do you believe judges should be required to report attorney misconduct?	Knowledge
Any court	What do you believe are the causes of high rates of minority incarceration?	Knowledge
Any court	What can be done to provide wider and better legal access to all citizens and non-citizens?	Knowledge
Any court	Describe one instance in which you faced an ethical dilemma and how it was resolved?	Character
Any court	Do you believe the current system for disciplining lawyers and judges is effective? Explain your response.	Character
Any court	How do you deal with difficult people, including peers, lawyers, clients, or litigants?	Effectiveness
Any court	If you observed a party in your courtroom being poorly represented by an unprepared or ineffective lawyer, how would you handle the situation?	Effectiveness
Any court	Is there a need for more mandatory mediation and settlement efforts to reduce the number of cases going to trial?	Effectiveness
Any court	What are your views on whether the court, as a whole, deals effectively with racial and gender bias?	Effectiveness
Any court	What are the major issues involved in the discussions regarding gun control?	Effectiveness
Any court	Why did you decide to run for this judicial position?	Qualifications
Any court	How will you handle conflicts of interest on the bench?	Effectiveness
Any court	What are the biggest changes you think need to be made to our justice system?	Knowledge
Any court	How will you work to ensure equality for people of all backgrounds in your courtroom?	Diversity

Any court	Does a sitting judge have any role in advocacy or education in the community?	Character
Any court	What do you do (or would do) in your courtroom to ensure that defendants understand the judicial process and their rights and are treated respectfully as in individual?	Effectiveness
Any court	What is the most important responsibility of a judge?	Qualifications
Any court	What are your top goals for improving the quality of our courts?	Management
Any court	What three personal/professional skills or strengths make you the best candidate for this office?	Qualifications
Any court	What are your primary considerations when determining a sentence?	Knowledge
Any court	Why are you seeking elected office?	General
Any court	What is the most important role for the (particular) Judge?	Knowledge

Any court	How will you use your role as Judge to positively influence the community?	Management
Any court	Why are you the best candidate for the position?	Qualifications
Any court	What would you like to share that has not been included in this survey?	General