
INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY

Republicans have been working for years to increase judicial partisanship and decrease the independence of the judiciary.

- Republicans eliminated publicly-funded judicial elections, requiring judges to fundraise and opening them up to special interest donors.
- Republicans introduced judicial partisanship by passing a law to include party affiliation on ballots.
- Republicans dismissed judicial primaries in 2018, hoping to confuse voters by including many names on the ballot. However, when two Republican candidates filed for a Supreme Ct. seat, they passed a law to change the rules for certain candidates only.
- Republicans support decreasing judicial terms of office from four to two years, so judges will need to campaign and fundraise constantly.
- Republicans proposed a constitutional amendment that would shift the power to fill judicial vacancies between elections from the executive (i.e. governor) to the legislative branch, effectively selecting who hears the cases against them.

Learn more:

- <http://strongernc.org/nc-judiciary-attack/>
- <https://progressnc.org/news/public-comments-show-near-unanimous-opposition-to-legislative-attacks-on-judicial-independence>
- <https://longleafpolitics.com/nc-judicial-elections-2018/>
- <http://faircourtsnc.com/history/>
- <http://strongernc.org/wp-content/uploads/NC-Judicial-Reform-Timeline.pdf>