



**Judicial Candidate Information Form
for the Judicial Poll on the
November 3, 2020 Election**

Instructions: Please only respond using 10 pt. Arial font in the spaces provided. Any items left blank will be noted that the candidate chose not to respond.

1. Name	Graham Bosworth
2. Date of Birth	Month: <u>August</u> Year: <u>1978</u>
3. Place of Birth	City: <u>Pittsburgh</u> State: <u>PA</u>
4. Marital Status	Single <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Married Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Undergraduate Education Include name of school, degree(s) and graduation year(s)	Major - History Minor - Anthropology BA 2000
6. Legal Education Include name of law school, degree(s) and graduation year(s)	Suffolk University Law School JD 2004 Juridicum, Lund University, Lund Sweden
7. Date of Admission to Louisiana Bar	Month: <u>April</u> Year: <u>2005</u>
8. Professional Experience Including Nature of Practice and Extent of Civil and/or Criminal Trial Experience	I started my legal career as an Assistant District Attorney and worked in the office from 2005-2010. As an ADA, I worked primarily as an appellate attorney handling briefs and oral arguments at the Criminal District Court, the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal, Louisiana Supreme Court, and United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. I have been in private practice since 2010 and hold a contract with the Jefferson Parish Public Defender Office and am a CJA panel attorney in the Eastern District. Over the past ten years I have handled hundreds of cases from drug possession to murder. I have taken dozens of cases to trial and obtained acquittals in many of them. I have also continued to handle appellate work in my private practice and have overturned a number of convictions on direct appeal and through post conviction while continuing to handle arguments at the Courts of Appeal and the Louisiana Supreme Court. I also served as Judge, Pro Tempore, Criminal District Court, Section "D" for six months in 2016.



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<p>9. Bar Associations, Court Admissions, Professional Organizations and Legal Fraternities</p>	<p>Louisiana State Bar Association U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit Supreme Court of the United States of America Chair, Louisiana Bar Association Criminal Justice Committee Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers New Orleans Bar Association Jefferson Bar Association</p>
<p>10. In the past ten years, have you ever filed for or declared bankruptcy?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please explain.</p>
<p>11. In the past ten years, have you ever been arrested, charged, or convicted of a criminal violation other than a minor traffic violation? Include matters that have been dismissed, expunged, subject to diversion or deferred prosecution or otherwise set aside.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please explain.</p>
<p>12. Have you ever been publicly sanctioned by the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board or the disciplinary body of any court, administrative body, or other entity before which you function as an attorney or judge?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please explain.</p>



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Instructions: For sections 13 through 19, please provide us with your perspective on why you are well-suited to uphold the following well-accepted principles essential to any strong and vibrant judicial system. Comment only in the space provided. If you do not comment, it will be noted that the candidate chose not to respond.

<p>13. Judges should uphold the rule of law.</p>	<p>The judiciary exists to provide a forum for the fair and impartial administration of justice. That forum is built upon the Constitution of the United States, the Louisiana Constitution, and the statutes passed by the Louisiana Legislature. I firmly believe that unless those laws are followed, there is no fair and impartial administration of justice. My entire career I have fought to ensure that the law was followed. And as a judge I will obviously uphold the law.</p>
<p>14. Judges should be independent and impartial.</p>	<p>The independence and impartiality of the judiciary is an essential component of a fair criminal justice system. As stated above, judges are tasked with providing a forum where every litigant is given the opportunity to be heard and present evidence and be treated equally and without preconceived prejudice. Judges must weigh that evidence without bias and make rulings without feeling obligated to or controlled by outside interests. As an attorney I have been before judges who have not always lived up to this obligation. And frankly, it was one of the early motivating factors for me running for judge. As Judge Pro Tempore I maintained independence and impartiality and will again if elected this fall.</p>
<p>15. Judges should possess the appropriate judicial temperament and character.</p>	<p>I firmly believe that this is an essential characteristic of a good judge. Much like impartiality, judicial temperament has a profound effect on the ability of parties to have a fair opportunity to be heard in court. Judges who scream at lawyers, belittle defendants, or who do not respect the witnesses who come before them have a chilling effect on the proceedings, and as a result undermine justice. The quality of a judge can and should be gauged by the respect they give to those who appear in their court, and especially by how they treat our city's most vulnerable people. I vow as judge to treat everyone who comes before me with courtesy and respect.</p>
<p>16. The judicial system should be racially diverse and reflective of the society it serves.</p>	<p>Our legal system has long recognized that the right to a jury of one's peers means the right to a jury that reflects society. To do otherwise would be, again, to undermine the fairness and impartiality that our justice system mandates. I believe that same reasoning should apply to the judiciary, who make credibility determinations, sentencing decisions, and on occasion the ultimate findings of whether the state has proven guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. My experiences representing marginalized members of our community as public defender and pro bono attorney have demonstrated to me time and time again the need for judges who understand the disadvantaged background and circumstances of defendants. Moreover, many of the local rules of court and actions of the District Court are determined by the judges, en banc. Having a diverse judiciary means that the diverse racial makeup of our city will be represented in those court-wide decisions as well.</p>



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<p>17. Judges and the judiciary should have the confidence of the public.</p>	<p>After fifteen years in practice I know that our system of justice collapses without the confidence of the people that system serves. And judges must continuously work to prove to the people that they are fair and impartial. Witnesses who do not believe court proceedings are fair do not appear in court. Victims who do not believe court proceedings are fair do not cooperate with law enforcement. Defendants who do not believe court proceedings are fair take plea deals rather than fight their cases. When the people do not believe the system is fair, Due Process fails. I will work every day to ensure that New Orleans residents know that before me they will always be given the opportunity to be heard and treated fairly.</p>
<p>18. Judges should possess the appropriate capabilities and credentials.</p>	<p>To me, capabilities and credentials means real experience in a particular court and legal arena, because knowledge of the law is gained through actually navigating and utilizing it in real proceedings. A real, deep, understanding of the law is a necessary quality of any judge - a judge cannot uphold the law if they do not know it. Judges who do not understand procedural law can end up violating due process rights. Judges who lack a deep understanding of the jurisprudence can cause unnecessary delays in cases as parties seek supervisory review of erroneous decisions, or simply by delaying rulings because they do not know what ruling to make. Judges with the appropriate capabilities and credentials make better decisions and run a more efficient courtroom. I have been a prosecutor, a defense attorney, and a District Court Judge. I have practiced in the district courts, the appellate courts, and before the Louisiana Supreme Court. I have a deep understanding of the law, and will bring that knowledge and experience to the bench.</p>
<p>19. Please comment on how you plan to manage your docket from an efficiency standpoint.</p>	<p>Dockets should be available online for public review in real time. Filings, unless under seal, should be available online. As judge I will push for these changes. Additionally, I will utilize scheduling orders to manage an efficient docket. I will take the time at arraignment to get realistic answers from the prosecution about the length of time it will take to provide discovery. I will give the prosecution and the defense the ability to set a reasonable time to provide discovery, conduct independent investigation, and prepare for motions. This input at the start of a case reduces unnecessary continuances and prevents witnesses from wasting time at meaningless settings. Encouraging "open file discovery" also helps streamline docket efficiency. Additionally, during my time on the bench I held pre-trials each Friday afternoon to discuss the trials set the next week. This system provided transparency to the attorneys about what trials were expected to proceed or resolve, which trials would be continued, and the order of preference of the trials going forward. Those meetings significantly improved the flow of not only the trials, but also the motion hearings that were scheduled to proceed as each attorney knew in advance what they were expected to be prepared for.</p>