

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ECBA Attorneys Rate Erie Judge On Retention

Erie – During the November 2025 general election, voters will be asked whether Judge John J. Mead and Judge Joseph M. Walsh III, who are currently serving on the Erie County Court of Common Pleas, should each be retained for another ten-year term.

In August 2025, the Erie County Bar Association (ECBA) polled its 428 Active members (attorneys in Erie County) to secure their views as to whether Judges Mead and Walsh should be retained. The poll is part of the ECBA’s initiative to provide voters with information about the local courts. The poll results are being published because more than 35% of Active members returned valid ballots.

In this poll, members were asked to do two things. On the general question of retention, they were asked to vote “Yes,” “No,” or “No Opinion”. To provide some further detail regarding their views, they were also asked to rate each Judge on his competence, integrity, and temperament.

A “No Opinion” vote is cast if an ECBA member doesn’t know the Judge well enough to evaluate whether he should be retained or whether he possesses the level of competence, integrity, and temperament to be capable of satisfactory performance as a judge.

Judge John J. Mead and Judge Joseph M. Walsh III both received an overall “Yes” vote for retention from more than 50% of Active members who returned valid ballots.

Candidate	Overall Retention Vote		
	Yes	No	No Opinion
Judge John J. Mead	194 (90%)	7 (3%)	15 (7%)
Judge Joseph M. Walsh III	152 (71%)	39 (18%)	24 (11%)

Qualifications

The poll also asked members to evaluate the Judges on a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 representing “strongly disagree” and 5 representing “strongly agree”) regarding the characteristics below, which are deemed necessary to serve as a judge on the Court of Common Pleas. As such, the more strongly a member agreed that the Judge possesses such a quality, the higher the score. The more strongly a member disagreed that the Judge possesses such a quality, the lower the score.

Competence: the necessary intellectual capability, judgment, legal writing, analytical ability, industry, knowledge of the law, scholarship, academic talent, and professional contributions.

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Average Score</u>
Judge John J. Mead	4.6
Judge Joseph M. Walsh III	3.8

Integrity: good moral character, ethics, honesty, and trustworthiness.

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Average Score</u>
Judge John J. Mead	4.6
Judge Joseph M. Walsh III	4.1

Temperament: compassion, decisiveness, open-mindedness, sensitivity, courtesy, patience, freedom from bias, and commitment to justice.

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Average Score</u>
Judge John J. Mead	4.7
Judge Joseph M. Walsh III	3.8

There were 428 ballots issued and 217 valid ballots returned, which constitutes a participation rate of 50.7% of all Active members. The percentages and average scores above are based upon the total valid ballots received, not the total number of Active members. The ballots were tallied by Maloney, Reed, Scarpitti & Company, LLP, Certified Public Accountants.

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