



Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission

PRESS RELEASE

POINT OF CONTACT: DAVID SACHAR

PHONE: 501-682-1050

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2019

Upon the approval of the Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission, Executive Director David J. Sachar announces the following concerning relevant dates for the upcoming 2020 nonpartisan judicial elections.

Act 545 of 2019 was signed by the Governor on March 21, 2019 and will be enrolled as a valid state law pursuant to the usual procedures. Despite the fact that no emergency clause was added, the functional outcome of the Act sets the nonpartisan judicial election to be the first Tuesday after the first day of March.

Rule 4.2 (B) of the Code of Judicial Conduct allows for candidates to publically announce their intention to seek judicial office and establish a campaign committee not earlier than 365 days before the first applicable election. Rule 4.4 (B)(2) allows for campaign committees to refrain from soliciting or accepting contributions to the current campaign more than 180 days before the applicable election. Under the same provision campaign committees must not solicit or accept contributions more than 45 days after the last election in which the candidate participated.

Based on the effect of the Act the following dates have been calculated to apply to judicial candidates in the 2020 election cycle:

Election date: Tuesday, March 3, 2020
365 days before the election: Monday, March 4, 2019
180 days before the election: Thursday, September 5, 2019
45 days after the election: Friday, April 17, 2020.

If any judicial elections result in a run-off election, the 45 day limit on retiring debt should be calculated from the end of the run-off election date. This would only apply to the two candidates in the contested run-off. Act 545, as well as the other relevant portions of Arkansas Code

Annotated, should be reviewed when candidates consider the candidate filing period, access to the ballot via signature and other dates of interest.

All candidates for judicial office should review the Code of Judicial Conduct and encourage those working on their campaign to do the same. The JDDC will host and present two free training sessions for candidates and their campaign staff in August and September of 2019. Specific dates will be announced at a later time.

David J. Sachar, J.D.