Ballotpedia's Sample Ballot Lookup
Find your sample ballot
Enter your address to see your upcoming ballot
Explore cutting-edge ideas with renowned Harvard faculty.
Join a cohort of 100 renowned faculty and thought leaders
Interns wanted: Get paid to help ensure that every voter has unbiased election information. 100% remote. Apply today!

Charles Canady

Charles Canady is a judge of the Florida Supreme Court. He assumed office on September 8, 2008. His current term ends on January 2, 2029.

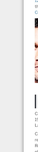
Canady ran for re-election for a seat on the Florida Supreme Court. He was the retention election on November 8, 2022.

Canady was elected by his peers to serve as chief justice of the court from 2010 to 2012. He was elected a second time in 2018 and re-elected in 2020. He completed his current term in June 2022.[1]

Canady was appointed to the court by Gov. Charlie Crist (R) on August 28, 2008, to replace retiring Justice Raoul Cantero.[2][3] He was retained by voters in 2010 and 2016. To read more about judicial selection in Florida, click here.

In 2020, Ballotpedia published Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship, a study examining the partisan affiliation of all state supreme court justices in the country. As part of this study, we assigned each justice a Confidence Score to describe our confidence in the degree of partisanship exhibited by the justices' past partisan behavior. Canady's Confidence Score is 0.67, indicating a confidence score of **Moderate**. Click here to read more about the study.

Canady was a member of the Florida House of Representatives representing House District 84 from 1984 to 1990.[4] He was first elected as a Democrat but later switched his party affiliation to Republican in 1985.[5] He represented Florida's 12th Congressional District in the U.S. House from 1993 to 2005.[6] Before joining the state supreme court, Canady served as a judge on the Florida Second District Court of Appeal.[7]



Biography

Canady was born in Lakeland, Florida, on June 22, 1954.[8] He received a bachelor's degree from Haverford College in 1976 and a law degree from Yale University in 1979.[9] Following his graduation from law school, Canady returned to Lakeland where he worked as an attorney at the law firm of Holland and Knight.[7]

Canady represented House District 44 in the Florida House of Representatives from 1984 to 1990.[10] He was a registered Democrat during his tenure in the state House until 1989, at which point he switched his party affiliation to Republican.[11] In 1990, he ran as a Republican for Senate District 12 in the Florida State Senate and lost. In 1992, he was elected to represent Florida's 12th Congressional District in the U.S. House, a position he held until leaving office in 2005.

After leaving Congress, Canady became counsel to Gov. Jeb Bush (R), a position he held until Bush appointed him to the Florida Second District Court of Appeal in 2002.[12] Gov. Charlie Crist (R) appointed Canady to the Florida Supreme Court in 2008.[13]

Elections and appointments

2022

See also: Florida Supreme Court elections, 2022

Florida Supreme Court: Charles Canady's seat

Retention Vote

		Votes
✓ Yes	64 %	4,353,468
No	36 %	2,452,526
Total Votes		6,805,994

Source

Florida Supreme Court (2008-present)

Canady was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court by Gov. Charlie Crist (R) on August 28, 2008, to replace retiring Justice Raoul Cantero.[14][15]

2016

See also: Florida Supreme Court elections, 2016

Canady was retained by voters on November 8, 2016, receiving 68.0% of the vote.[16]

Florida Supreme Court, Associate Justice (Trial general election results)

Candidates	Votes	Percent
Charles Canady ✓	**3,369,746**	**68.0%**
Against retention	1,583,439	32.0%

2010

See also: Florida judicial elections, 2010

Canady was retained by voters on November 2, 2010, receiving 67.5% of the vote.[17]

Florida Supreme Court, Associate Justice (Trial general election results)

Candidates	Votes	Percent
Charles Canady ✓	**3,032,764**	**67.5%**
Against retention	1,457,276	32.5%

Florida Second District Court of Appeal (2002-2008)

Canady was appointed to the Florida Second District Court of Appeal by Gov. Jeb Bush (R) to replace retiring judge Oliver L. Green. He assumed office in 2002.[7]

2004

Canady was retained by voters on November 2, 2004, receiving 74.6% of the vote.[18]

Florida Second District Court of Appeal (2004 general election results)

Candidates	Votes	Percent
Charles Canady ✓	**1,296,569**	**74.6%**
Against retention	441,492	25.4%

Analysis

Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship (2020)

See also: Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship and Ballotpedia Courts: Determiners and Dissenters

Last updated June 15, 2020

In 2020, Ballotpedia published Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship, a study examining the partisan affiliation of all state supreme court justices in the country as of June 15, 2020.

The study presented Confidence Scores that represented our confidence in each justice's degree of partisan affiliation. This was not a measure of where a justice fell on an ideological spectrum, but rather a measure of how much confidence we had that a justice was or had been affiliated with a political party. The scores were based on seven factors, including but not limited to party registration.[19]

The five resulting categories of Confidence Scores were:

- Strong Democrat
- Mid Democrat
- Indeterminate[20]
- Mid Republican
- Strong Republican

This justice's Confidence Score, as well as the factors contributing to that score, is presented below. The information below was current as of June 2020.

Charles Canady
Florida

Partisan Confidence Score:
Mid Republican

Judicial Selection Method:
Assisted appointment through government controlled judicial nominating commission

Key Factors:

- Held political office as a Republican
- Was a registered Republican before 2020
- Appointed by a Republican governor

Partisan Profile

Details:
Canady served as general counsel to Gov. Jeb Bush (R) from 2000-2002. He also served as a Republican member of both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Florida House of Representatives. He was a registered Republican prior to 2020. Canady was appointed by Gov. Charlie Crist (R) in 2008. At the time of his appointment, Florida was a Republican trifecta.

Other Indicators:
In a 2012 study of campaign contributions, Canady received a campaign finance score of 0.87, indicating a conservative ideological leaning.

Bonica and Woodruff campaign finance scores (2012)

See also: Bonica and Woodruff campaign finance scores of state supreme court justices, 2012

In October 2012, political science professors Adam Bonica and Michael Woodruff of Stanford University attempted to determine the partisan ideology of state supreme court justices. They created a scoring system which a score above 0 indicated a more conservative leaning ideology, while scores below 0 were more liberal.

Canady received a campaign finance score of 0.87, indicating a conservative ideological leaning. This was more conservative than the average score of 0.54 that justices received in Florida.

The study was based on data from campaign contributions to the judges themselves, the partisan leaning of those who contributed to the judges' campaigns, or in the absence of elections, the ideology of the appointing body (governor or legislature). This study was not a definitive label of a justice, but an academic summary of various relevant factors.[21]

Noteworthy cases

Noteworthy cases may be selected due to their impact on legal precedent, substantial media attention, or overlaps with another area of editorial interest at Ballotpedia. To suggest cases we should cover here, email us.

State v. Phillips (2013)

Due to a calculation error, Steven Phillips, a prisoner serving time for sexual assault and parole violations, was held in custody for an additional 90 days beyond his release date. Phillips was eventually released from custody on time, but the error was not officially confirmed until his correct release date had passed. Several months after what should have been his release date, Phillips was transferred to the Florida Civil Commitment Center, and the state petitioned to keep Phillips civilly committed under Florida Involuntary Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators Act.[22]

Previous Florida Supreme Court decisions had determined that the state can petition to have an inmate civilly committed only during the period the inmate is in lawful custody. Although the court acknowledged that the language of the act included only the word custody, not prefaced with lawful, the supreme court ruled that the legislature intended the custody to be lawful. Citing those cases, Phillips challenged the commitment petition, arguing that he was not in lawful custody at the time of the petition.[23]

A majority of the Florida Supreme Court agreed. The court held that "lawful custody…requires the State to initiate commitment proceedings prior to the expiration of sentence date." Because Phillips' sentence expired before the state initiated commitment proceedings, the court held that he was not in lawful custody at the time of the state's petition.[24]

Justice Canady dissented, joined by Justice Ricky Polston. Canady argued that the court should not prevent the state from seeking civil commitment of an inmate "simply because the commitment process is initiated at time when the person is in custody due to legal error." Canady would have "recast[ed] the unreasoned pronouncement contained in the majority opinion" to read "the statutory requirement of custody is satisfied when there is a serious interpretive error, which resulted in imposing a meaning on the statute that is unsound in principle."[25][26][27]

State supreme court judicial selection in Florida

See also: Judicial selection in Florida

The **seven justices** of the Florida Supreme Court are selected in an identical manner. A judicial nominating commission consisting of nine members who are appointed by the governor to four-year terms screens potential judicial candidates.[28][29] It submits a list of three to six nominees to the governor, and the governor must then appoint a judge from the list.[30]

Newly appointed judges serve for at least one year, after which they appear in a yes-no retention election held during the next general election. If retained, judges serve six-year terms.[31] Under the Florida constitution, a judge must retire at age 75, however, a judge who reaches 75 years of age serving at least half of a six-year term may complete that term.[32]

Qualifications

To serve on the court, a judge must be:

- a qualified elector;
- a state resident;
- admitted to practice law in the state for 10 years prior to assuming the bench; and
- under the age of 75.

Chief justice

The chief justice of the supreme court is selected by peer vote. He or she serves in that capacity for two years.[33]

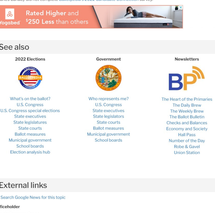
Vacancies

See also: How vacancies are filled in state supreme courts

If a midterm vacancy occurs, the seat is filled as it normally would if the vacancy occurred at the end of a judge's term. A judicial nominating commission recommends three to six qualified candidates to the governor, and the governor selects a successor from that list. The new appointee serves for at least one year before running in a yes-no retention election.[34]

The map below highlights how vacancies are filled in state supreme courts across the country.

How vacancies are filled in state supreme courts



Notes: State Senate confirmation required in AK, DE, HI, MT, NJ, PA, and TN. Confirmation from both legislative chambers required in TN and HI. Executive Council and Governor's Council approval required in HI and NH, respectively. In a few supreme courts may appoint a temporary judge until the special election and the next general election. In Illinois, the governor fills the appointed Democratic judge if the legislature is not in session. In MD, the governor has the option to call a special election instead of appointing a judge.

Source: American Judicature Society, National Center for State Courts

BALLOTPEDIA

purple
Do you really need a new mattress?
Shop purple mattresses, accessories & more.
LEARN MORE

Campaign themes

2022

Ballotpedia survey responses

See also: Ballotpedia's Candidate Connection

Charles Canady did not complete Ballotpedia's 2022 Candidate Connection survey.

Rated Higher and Yoptimal
250 Less than others

See also

2022 Elections
What's on the ballot?
U.S. Congress
U.S. Congressional elections
State executives
State legislatures
State courts
Ballot measures
Municipal government
School boards
Election analysis hub

Government
Who represents me?
U.S. Congress
Congressional districts
State legislators
State courts
Ballot measures
Municipal government
School boards

Newsletters
The Heart of the Primaries
The Daily Brew
Ballot Measures
The Ballot Bulletin
Checks and Balances
Economy and Society
Half-Pass
Number of the Day
Robo & Geist
Union Station

External links

- Search Google News for this topic

Officeholder

Florida Supreme Court
- Website

Footnotes

1. 1.0 1.1 1.2 1.3 1.4 1.5 1.6 1.7 1.8 Florida Supreme Court, "Chief Justice Charles T. Canady," accessed June 22, 2022
2. 1.0 1.1 1.2 Crist was a Republican at the time he appointed Canady, but later switched his party affiliation to Democrat.
3. 1.0 We calculated confidence scores by collecting several data points such as campaigns, appointments, and previous political campaigns.
4. 1.0 The five possible confidence scores were: Strong Democrat, Mid Democrat, Indeterminate, Mid Republican, and Strong Republican.

Only the first two references on this page are shown above. Click to show more.

WOKE, INC.
INSIDE THE MODERN AMERICAN RACIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT
BUY NOW