

# JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY



Informed  
Voters  
FAIR JUDGES

A Program of the National Association of Women Judges

Unlike legislators, judges should remain independent from partisan agendas. Their primary focus is on the fair resolution of issues and disputes according to the Constitution and the law. Our governmental system is thoughtfully structured to cultivate fair and impartial courts while ensuring judicial accountability through a series of checks on judicial power.

*While the mechanisms for judicial accountability vary from state to state, all are designed to establish high standards and strong protections to ensure equal protection and application of the law for all citizens.*

## Judges can be held accountable in the following ways:

- If judges make mistakes, those involved in the case may be able to appeal to a higher court. If the judge made a legal error, the higher court can change the decision.
- If people dislike how a court interprets a law, they can ask lawmakers to change the law, which would affect how it is applied in the future.
- If voters disagree with a court's interpretation of the Constitution, they have the power to amend the Constitution.
- Judges accused of misconduct may face investigation and disciplinary actions, which can range from reprimands to removal from their position.

*Courts are accountable to the law, the Constitution, and the people!*

**INFORMED VOTERS → IMPARTIAL JUDGES → EQUAL JUSTICE**