

Ohio Supreme Court




PAT
DeWINE

REPUBLICAN • INCUMBENT



MARILYN
ZAYAS

DEMOCRAT

Nonpartisan Candidate Guide to the 2022 DeWine-Zayas Supreme Court Race

This election for the Ohio Supreme Court is between the incumbent Justice Pat DeWine and Judge Marilyn Zayas.

The Ohio Supreme Court [is currently regarded as conservative](#), with a 4-3 Republican majority. [All three seats on the ballot](#) this year are held by Republicans. Ohio Supreme Court justices have previously been elected in nonpartisan elections. This year justices are running under partisan labels, with DeWine a Republican and Zayas a Democrat.

The Ohio Supreme Court decides questions of state law that often have a significant impact on state policy and individual rights. The Court recently decided cases involving the [validity of the Ohio State Legislature's redistricting](#) (the process of redrawing the boundaries of Ohio's political districts), [reduction of bail for a man accused of murder](#), [infringement of the First Amendment by an education board's ban on picketing](#), and [whether a fine is unconstitutionally excessive](#). The Court is also [set to rule on whether individuals accused of violent crimes may possess guns](#). Recent state legislation that may come before the Court ranges from [a ban on abortion after six weeks](#) to [restrictions on discussion of sexuality or gender in schools](#). The election for this position may determine whether the Court leans conservative or liberal. Ohio's other Supreme Court races are addressed in [here](#) and in [this overview](#).

PAT DEWINE

patdewine.com

Background

Justice DeWine [currently sits on the Ohio Supreme Court](#). He was elected to the Court in 2016. DeWine graduated from [Miami University with a bachelor's degree, and from University of Michigan Law School with a law degree](#).

Prior to joining the Ohio Supreme Court, DeWine served on [the First District Court of Appeals and the Hamilton County Common Pleas Court](#). He also served as a Hamilton County commissioner and on the Cincinnati City Council and worked in private practice.

MARILYN ZAYAS

judgemarilynzayas.com

Background

Judge Marilyn Zayas currently serves on [First District Court of Appeals of Ohio](#). She was elected to the Court in 2016. [In 2018, Zayas served as a visiting judge on the Ohio Supreme Court](#) in the case of *State of Ohio v. Edwin A. Vega*. She received [a computer science degree from City College of New York and earned her law degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Law](#).

Before becoming a judge, [Zayas worked at Procter & Gamble, and as an attorney in private practice for nearly 20 years](#).

DeWINE (cont.)

Judicial Rulings

- DeWine dissented when the Court rejected [a congressional redistricting map](#) and [state legislative district maps](#), as unduly partisan, both created by the Ohio Redistricting Commission, with 5 Republican and 2 Democratic members.
- In 2022, [dissented](#) in a case involving the reduction of bail for a man accused of murder. The majority, DeWine says, [“decided that courts in Ohio couldn’t consider public safety or the concerns of crime victims when they set the bail amount for people arrested for violent crimes like rape and murder.”](#)

Statements

- DeWine [says his role as a judge “is to create an environment where people want to do business” in Ohio, where “you can make decisions, employ people, to make Ohio a better state. And having a good legal environment where it’s safe and predictable is important to that.”](#)
- DeWine supports [State Issue 1](#), a [Constitutional amendment on the November ballot](#), which will Take power from the Supreme Court and it would give more power to the legislature in terms of taking public safety in to account in setting bail for certain violent crimes.

Endorsements

DeWine is [endorsed](#) by [Buckeye Firearms Association PAC](#), the Cleveland Building & Construction Trades Council, [Ohio Fraternal Order of Police](#), and the [Ohio Right to Life PAC](#).

ZAYAS (cont.)

Judicial Rulings

- In an appeal of a parental termination case (where a parent’s right to raise a child is permanently terminated), regarding a mother who had three children before she turned 18, the Court of Appeals unanimously reversed a lower court’s termination order. Zayas writes, [“One of our most precious rights is the right to parent our children. Family bonds should only be severed when parents pose a substantial risk to a child that cannot be remedied.”](#)

Statements

- Zayas says, [“It’s not about getting caught up in the emotions of the case; it’s about getting caught up in the law,”](#) she says. “I don’t come to a case thinking, ‘This is what the answer should be, or this is the rule of law I would like to create.’ Rather, let me and my team do research — and I think people would be shocked at the amount of time we spend doing research. [Let us review the record, go through transcripts and exhibits and motions that were filed, and make sure we leave no stone unturned.](#)”
- [“My judicial philosophy is to be faithful to the law and to apply it equally to all.](#) I decide cases based on what the law is, not by advancing a personal or political agenda, or by who the parties are. [My priority is to ensure that the law is applied fairly and consistently and with integrity, independence and common sense.](#) I strive to write each decision so that both sides of the case can understand why the outcome is what it is and to reflect that both sides were considered and understood.”

Endorsements

Zayas is endorsed by [the Human Rights Campaign PAC](#), [Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio](#), [Ohio Legislative Black Caucus](#), and [Communications Workers of America](#).

[guides.vote](#) is a nonpartisan effort to show where candidates stand, with links to credible sources. We do not support or oppose any political party or candidate for office. [Vote411.org](#) offers guides to local races.

