

LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study

The questions we'll be discussing and reaching consensus on regarding the Federal Judiciary are

the following:

- 1. Transparency is essential to an effective Federal Judiciary.**
- 2. Accountability is essential to an effective Federal Judiciary.**
- 3. Independence is essential to an effective Federal Judiciary.**
- 4. Ethics is essential to an effective Federal Judiciary.**
- 5. There should be binding universal standards of conduct for judges and Justices at all levels of the Federal courts.**
- 6. Court hearings, documents filed in the court, and rulings for all federal cases should be open and available to the public.**
- 7. There should be an effective enforcement mechanism for the Federal Judiciary code of ethics at all levels.**
- 8. An enforcement mechanism should include a process to require a judge or Justice to recuse him or herself when a reasonable litigant would believe that the judge or Justice has a bias against any party or an issue raised in the case.**
- 9. A judge or Justice's decision and rationale to recuse or not recuse should be publicly disclosed in writing.**
- 10. Federal judges and Justices should be subject to rigorous financial disclosure requirements, enforcement, and penalties for all financial benefits, including but not limited to income, gifts, paid speaking engagements, and book deals.**
- 11. Stability of law (stare decisis) is a value that contributes to a strong democracy.**
- 12. Public perception of the Supreme Court's legitimacy contributes to a strong democracy.**

We can add any information we wish to share about our League's answer on each question (up to 100 words).