GEAUGA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Candidate:

This questionnaire seeks detailed information from candidates (contested and uncontested) for office, including incumbents seeking re-election. Only a copy of the completed questionnaire will be included in the correspondence to our members when they receive their bar poll ballot.

Responding to these questions will require significant time and effort on your part. We believe the information requested will help our members give the public thoughtful and accurate ratings of candidates. Your responses are an opportunity to demonstrate you are or would be the kind of candidate we all want for our clients and our community. We appreciate your time, and your true, honest, and candid answers. Do not, however, disclose information you are required to keep confidential, or that is subject to attorney-client privilege, attorney work product, or any other privileges or protections.

If a candidate chooses not to submit the questionnaire, the ballot will indicate the candidate refused to participate.

Please answer all applicable questions and sign the jurat and the waiver.

GENERAL

1. Name: Robert J. Patton

2. a. City and county of residence: Willowick, Lake County

   b. How long have you lived in Ohio? Since my birth on July 6, 1968

   c. How long have you lived in the jurisdiction in which you seek office? 28 years

3. Business address: Eleventh District Court of Appeals for Ohio, 111 High Street, N.E.

   City: Warren State: Ohio Zip: 44481

   Business Phone: 330-675-2662

4. Place and date of birth: Euclid, Ohio July 6, 1968

5. Court for which you are a candidate: Eleventh District Court of Appeals for Ohio

6. Commencement of term: February 10, 2027

UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE EDUCATION

7.

School Name:	Years: Attended:	Degree Received:	Honors (if any):
Cleveland State University	1986 - 1990	B.A.	
Cleveland State University	1991 - 1993	M.A.	
Cleveland State University	1993 – 1996	J.D.	

WORK HISTORY AND PROFESSIONAL ADMISSIONS:

8. State your legal work history since graduating law school in chronological order, listing each employer, the employer's address, your position, and the time period you were so employed. Also include the same information for any period of time during which you were self-employed. **In the alternative, you may attach a résumé if it contains all of the requested information**, or if you supplement any missing information in your response here.

   Dates: Position: Employer Name and City, State:

   See my attached CV.

9. List the date(s) you were admitted to the bar of any state and your current status as a bar member. Identify any period during which you were not in good standing in each bar, and the reason. Please also list the date of your admission to all courts and administrative bodies having special requirements to which you have been admitted to practice, your current status and the dates and reason for any period during which you were not in good standing.

Admitted by exam, November 12, 1996. I have always been in good standing.

10. (a) Are you currently serving as a judge or magistrate? Yes

(b) Are you currently engaged in the practice of law? No

(c) If you are NOT currently engaged in either the practice of law or serving as a judge or magistrate,

(1) Make sure to complete Question 23 for your most recent six years of legal practice.

(2) Describe how your current work is relevant to your performance in the judicial office you seek.

HONORS AND AWARDS:

11. List any fellowships, honorary degrees, academic or professional honors, honorary society memberships, military awards, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement.

See my attached CV.

BAR ASSOCIATION AND OTHER MEMBERSHIPS

12. List all professional, business, fraternal, sororal, scholarly, civic, charitable, or other organizations to which you belong, or to which you have belonged, since graduation from law school. Please include bar associations, clubs, working groups, advisory or editorial boards, panels, committees, or conferences. Provide dates of membership or participation, and indicate any offices you held, and/or your noteworthy accomplishments in connection with the organization.

See my attached CV.

PUBLIC OFFICE

13. List chronologically any elected or appointed public offices you have held or sought, other than judicial offices, including the terms of service, and whether such positions were elected or appointed. If appointed, please include the name of the individual or entity that appointed you.

See my attached CV.

LAW PRACTICE

Answer each part separately. FOR JUDGES WHO WILL, AS OF JANUARY 2022, HAVE *COMPLETED* AT LEAST ONE *FULL* TERM OF SERVICE, THIS QUESTION IS OPTIONAL.

14. For your current or most recent law practice, and every distinctive period of practice in the past, whether or not with a different office, describe:

    (a) the general character of your law practice. Federal criminal law.

    (b) your typical clients and or matters, and the legal areas, if any, on which you have focused. Federal law enforcement agencies.

    (c) The percentage of your practice in litigation and whether you appear in court frequently, occasionally, or not at all. 100%

    (d) The percentage of your practice in: federal courts 100% (2006-2023); state courts of record 100% (2001-2006); other courts 0%; and administrative agencies 0%.

    (e) The percentage of your practice in: civil proceedings 0% (since 2006); and criminal proceedings 100% (since 2006).

15. Estimate the number of cases in courts of record, including cases before administrative-law judges, you have tried to verdict, judgment, or final decision (rather than settled), indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel, and

    Over 45 criminal jury trials in State court and over 15 criminal jury trials in Federal court.

    What percentage or numbers of these trials were: jury % and non-jury %.

    100% jury trials.

16. How many cases have you appeared as counsel of record in an Ohio County Court of Common Pleas?

    Over 100 cases in nearly 6 years as an Assistant Lake County Prosecutor.

17. Roughly how many physical appearances have you made in the 11th District Court of Appeals?

    Approximately, 10 as an Assistant Lake County Prosecutor.

18. Describe your practice, if any, before state and federal intermediate courts of appeals, the Ohio Supreme Court or the U.S. Supreme Court.

    I practiced and argued before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit approximately 10 times.

OTHER LAW RELATED ACTIVITIES

19. Pro Bono Work. The Statements on Professionalism adopted by the Supreme Court of Ohio, and the Court's September 20, 2007 Statement Regarding Provision of Pro Bono Legal Services by Ohio Lawyers encourage Ohio lawyers to help provide the pro bono representation that is necessary to make our system of justice available to all. Describe what you have done to fulfill these responsibilities, including the types of matters handled, when you did this work and an estimate of the time you devote to pro bono work each year.

    N/A

20. Teaching. Describe your teaching experience, if any, including school or sponsoring institution, the years you taught the course, and the subject matter. If you have a syllabus for any such course, please attach it.

    See my attached CV.

21. Other. Please describe any other significant professional activity you wish to call to our attention. This may include service on Ohio Supreme Court Boards, Commissions, or Task Forces; your involvement in any professional or community organizations; and the like.

    See my attached CV.

PAST CONDUCT

22. Have you ever been disciplined for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by any court, or by the disciplinary authority for any profession in which you also hold a license? YES_____ NO_X_. If so, please give the particulars including the year, complainant, nature of complaint, findings, and sanction, and provide a copy of relevant opinions and orders.

GOALS AND OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

23. Why do you aspire to be a judge?

    Serving as a judge has been a career goal for me since I clerked for Judge Mitrovich immediately after law school. As the first person in my family to attend law school, attaining the position of a judge represents the highest form of public service.

24. What changes, if any, would you make if elected to the Bench? If you are an incumbent seeking re-election, what specifically would you change as a judge during your next term of office if elected once again to the Bench? Incumbents should specify any tools or techniques that he or she has used to improve the efficiency of the docket and trial calendar.

    Since Governor DeWine appointed me in June 2023, my staff has endeavored to expedite the adjudication of appellate matters with the goal to timely administer justice. Specifically, my Judicial Assistant created an original, internal tracking system that is set forth in a chart. The chart shows the status of all cases that I am assigned to write or vote on a panel. We have also

instituted an internal employee evaluation process for my court staff to ensure a professional and efficient work environment.

25. Please identify the greatest issue(s) the judiciary, or the court on which you wish to serve, faces today.

The greatest challenge is to properly and timely resolve the cases presented to the court.

26. Please explain how your background demonstrates the level of community engagement and understanding appropriate to the judicial office you are seeking.

My background as a criminal trial lawyer serves as a constant reminder that behind every appellate case are individuals. Their pending case is probably one of the most important issues in their lives that deserves my full attention and best efforts. As a former member of Willowick City Council, I am keenly aware that that public service requires listening and action. These foundational experiences help me serve more effectively as a judge.

27. Please state any other information you regard as relevant to your candidacy.

My legal career has been devoted to public service. Sitting as an appellate judge represents the pinnacle of my legal career in public service.

FOR TRIAL COURT CANDIDATES

28. Would you conduct telephonic or video court appearance (e.g. pre-trials, case management conferences, etc.) for criminal and civil matters?

N/A

29. Both a criminal trial and civil trial are scheduled on the same date. All parties are ready to proceed. What factors will you consider when determining which matter will go forward and why?

N/A

30. How do you or will you manage your docket to ensure dispositive motions are heard in a timely manner so parties do not incur the time and expense of preparing for a trial that ultimately may not proceed? Would you be amenable to an automatic continuance of a trial date when a dispositive motion has not been ruled upon by a certain number of days in advance of trial?

N/A

31. Is there any additional information not previously addressed in the questionnaire that you would like to include?

Please include my attached CV for the bar members to consider.

JURAT

Robert J. Patton, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that the information in the above questionnaire is true.

Signature of Candidate

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 25th day of March, 2026.

Notary Public Sharon K. Vigorito

My commission expires: May 9, 2027