



A Fair, Stable, Predictable Civil Justice System

Why Ohio's Supreme Court Races Matter

In the 2022 election, the three Supreme Court of Ohio races are as impactful for Ohio manufacturers as any other contests on the ballot.

Two Supreme Court seats and the election of chief justice are on the ballot this November. Incumbent Pat DeWine (R) faces Marilyn Zayas (D), while incumbent Pat Fischer (R) faces Terri Jamison (D). In the race for chief justice, Jennifer Brunner (D) faces Sharon Kennedy (R).

The OMA-PAC has endorsed Justices Kennedy, DeWine, and Fischer. The following are critical points for supporters of manufacturing on why Ohio's Supreme Court contests matter, especially in 2022:

- A state's legal climate can either attract or deter business investment, growth, and job creation.
- Ohio's civil justice system must be rational, fair, and predictable so manufacturers can innovate and pursue market opportunities without fear of unreasonable exposure to costly lawsuits.
- While Ohio today has a sound legal climate, as recently as the early 2000s, Ohio was considered a "judicial hell hole" by legal experts, the result of activist judges – judges who tended to legislate from the bench as opposed to applying existing law.
- The balance of power on the Ohio Supreme Court has shifted over the past two election cycles – and Ohio's pro-growth legal environment is at stake in this year's election.
- This year's Supreme Court races are expected to be extremely close. The outcomes will impact a wide range of issues. For manufacturers, cases involving non-economic damages, statutes of repose, and product liability could be negatively impacted by a shift in judicial philosophy.
- Ohio manufacturers believe in promoting fair, independent justices for the state's highest court — justices whose decisions are based on what the law actually says. That's why the OMA-PAC endorsed Sharon Kennedy, Pat Fischer, and Pat DeWine.
- During their time on the court, Justices Kennedy, Fischer, and DeWine have proven themselves to be independent arbiters of the state's constitution – not overstepping their bounds and creating policy from the bench.
- Retaining their positions on the court – including electing Kennedy as chief justice – will ensure Ohio's business community can count on legal stability.

Paid for by the OMA-PAC. Ryan Augsburger, Treasurer, 33 N. High St., Sixth Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3005.