**Judicial Selection and the Impartial Justice Act**

LWVMN is a member of the [Coalition for Impartial Justice](http://www.impartialcourts.org/) which is leading the effort to create a system of electing judges that will ensure a true impartial judiciary.  The new system would:

**1.  Make merit mandatory**:  The Governor would be bound by recommendations of the merit selection commission for all judicial appointments.

**2.  Provide non-partisan information to voters** on the judges standing for retention via a rating system based on performance (not on whether the judges’ decisions are good or bad). A Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission would consist of representatives from all three branches of government.

**3.** **Increase accountability**because voters would be able choose to retain or remove every judge in every seat.  Currently 90% of judges run unopposed giving voters a choice only 10% of the time.

## Brian O'Shea Speaks at Our Sep. 12th Meeting

The Grassroots Director from the Coalition for Impartial Justice addressed our members at the annual Red, White and Blue meeting this year on the importance of Minnesota passing the Impartial Justice Act.  Key points:

* Big money and outside influences are moving into judicial elections throughout the country.
* It is very difficult to find information on judicial candidates.
* If passed, judges would be appointed and voted for based on merit and performance.
* Since MN Constitution states how we currently choose judges, a constitutional amendment would be necessary.
* Support for the Impartial Justice Act is truly nonpartisan.  It is supported by Democrats, Republicans and Independents; by corporations and nonprofits; by the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and the Minnesota AFL-CIO.   And, of course, by the League of Women Voters.

## Sarah Walker Address, April 11, 2013

Sarah Walker of COO-180 Degrees, Inc.and founder of the MN Second Chance Coalition gave a presentation on the Impartial Justice Act last spring at the Southshore Community Center.  Watch the [VIDEO](http://lmcc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=f188d024-f4f9-1030-bce9-7f882e4cf4e2) here!