

# VOTERS' POWER MAP

## ORANGE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

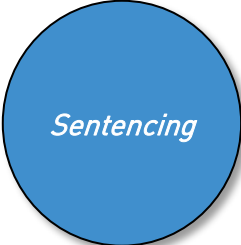
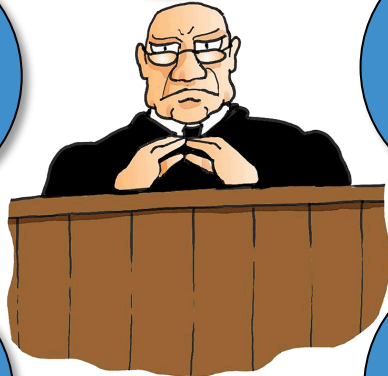
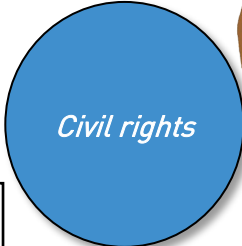
What are they responsible for and why are they so important?



Judges make calls on what evidence a jury is allowed to see. Judges decide what evidence one side is required to show to the other in a case. Judges also make sure that prosecutors turn over evidence that is favorable to the defense, ensuring a fair trial!



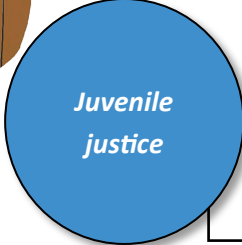
Judges are supposed to defend the civil rights of everyone in their courtroom, but many of their decisions can adversely affect an individual's rights – from whether or not to let a lawsuit against a police officer go forward, to whether or not to allow evidence illegally obtained by police into a case. They have a lot of responsibility to uphold our civil rights.



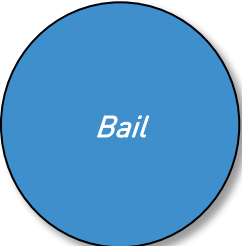
Judges have a good deal of discretion over sentencing in criminal cases. They have the ability to send someone to diversion programs like drug court or homeless court or to jail.



Judges set the rules in their court and are required to enforce the law equally. They have discretion as to what punishment, if any, they give to an attorney who disobeys the rules – this includes the District Attorney's office.



Judges have a large amount of discretion to prioritize punishment or rehabilitation for those going through our juvenile justice system.



Judges have discretion over how high to set bail in a criminal case, thereby deciding whether someone will stay in jail while waiting for their criminal case to end or whether they can go home to their families and keep their job.

The courts are thought of as the branch of government that holds everyone else in check: they protect our civil rights by stopping the other branches of government when they violate our rights. After all, it was the Supreme Court which forced schools to de-segregate, gave every defendant a lawyer in criminal court and recognized the right of all Americans to marry, regardless of the race or gender of their partner.

Our courts are only as good as the judges that we elect. That's why it is so important to know who you are voting for to make the right choice. Judges have a huge effect on the lives of those who come before them. They should have the highest respect for each person, recognizing the fundamental dignity, equality and rights of every individual that appears before them. They should model for and require integrity from every attorney who comes in their courtroom and hold them accountable when they fall short.

