



# VOTE NO on Amendment 3

This November, Georgians can cast their vote **against judicial abuses** and in support of a group that works every day to **preserve the integrity of our State's judges**. Georgia's Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC), for over forty years, has successfully fulfilled its role as **judicial watchdog**, forcing judges who abuse their power to change their ways or, in many cases, resign from the bench.

If passed, Amendment 3 on Georgia's ballot on November 8 will dismantle the current JQC and remake it as a rubber stamp, run by politicians. Amendment 3 is written in an **intentionally misleading way** to confuse voters who believe in a fair and accountable justice system.

## **The JQC must continue its critical work. Amendment 3 must be defeated. Here's why you should Vote NO.**

### **1. The Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC) needs independence to keep abusive judges off the bench.**

JQC investigations have forced almost fifty judges from the judiciary since 2007. In fact, a sponsor of the bill to dismantle the JQC, former Griffin Circuit Superior Court Judge Johnnie Caldwell, Jr., stepped down after a JQC investigation revealed that he made **rude, sexually suggestive comments** to a female attorney. Two years later, former judge Caldwell ran and was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives. For a list examples of the JQC's effectiveness organized by themes like **racism, sexism and corruption**, visit <http://www.georgiajudges.org/jqc-map>.

### **2. There isn't a problem that needs to be fixed.**

The JQC has **uprooted corruption, illegal behavior, nepotism, racism, and abuse from the judiciary**. For example, in 2013, the JQC issued a public reprimand of a state court judge for his unauthorized collection of "administrative costs" from criminal defendants appearing in his court, and for seeking a pay raise due to his revenue-generating practices for the county. He also violated judicial canons prohibiting nepotism when he appointed his son to serve as the state court judge in his absence.

### **3. The JQC's work has advanced fairness and integrity in our criminal justice system.**

One in 12 Georgians is under correctional control including parole, probation, or incarceration. Often times the fate of the person lies in the hands of a judge. Unfortunately, all too often people who come in touch with the criminal justice system are **treated with little respect**. In 2010, the JQC called for the resignation of a probate court judge after an investigation revealed that he, among other things, **swore at defendants, referred to African-Americans as "colored,"** and required defendants to prove their innocence. The Georgia Supreme Court later permanently removed this judge from the bench.

### **4. The goal of the constitutional amendment is to abolish the JQC as we know it.**

Those who are trying to compromise the JQC don't want you to know what they're up to. The text of the amendment, as it will appear on the ballot, is full of vague, positive language that masks the details, misleading voters.

**Take action & learn more about why you should VOTE NO on Amendment 3.**

Visit [www.georgiajudges.org](http://www.georgiajudges.org)