

# A "CHECK-OFF" ON THE N.C. TAX FORM FOR FAIR COURTS/FAIR ELECTIONS

## *The N.C. Public Campaign Fund*

### WHAT IS THE CHECK-OFF? ▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶

To help keep state courts free of political pressure or bias, N.C. taxpayers can now earmark \$3 of the taxes they are already paying to the N.C. Public Campaign Fund. **Marking "Yes" on the check-off will not reduce any refund or increase any taxes owed.** It simply tells the N.C. Revenue Department to send \$3 to the Fund.

### WHAT IS THE FUND'S PURPOSE?

Voters elect judges in North Carolina, but too often they know very little about the candidates. The purpose of the Fund is to

- Increase the information voters have about candidates for the N.C. Court of Appeals and Supreme Court, and
- Decrease the importance of large campaign donations in these elections. The Fund enhances fair courts and fair elections.

### WHAT DOES THE FUND'S SUPPORT?

The Public Campaign Financing Fund:

- Provides a Judicial Voter Guide that describes the functions of the appellate courts and profiles the candidates running for those offices, with their statements and bio information. The Guide is prepared and distributed by the State Board of Elections.
- Provides limited public financing to candidates for the N.C. Supreme Court and Court of Appeals who accept fund-raising and spending limits. To be eligible for public funds, candidates must get at least 350 small donations from registered voters and refuse funds from special-interest groups.

### N.C. Public Campaign Fund

Mark "Yes" if you want to designate \$3 of taxes to this special Fund for voter education materials and for candidates who accept strict spending limits. Marking "Yes" does not change your tax or refund.

<u>You</u>	<u>Your Spouse</u>
<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> Yes
<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> No

### WHO OVERSEES THE FUND?

The State Board of Election administers the Fund's operation, with help from the Public Campaign Advisory Council. The bipartisan Council is chaired by Willis Whichard, who is Dean of Campbell University's School of Law and a former N.C. Supreme Court justice.

### WHO ENDORSES THE FUND?

A broad coalition of civic leaders, legislators, and more than 1,000 judges and prominent attorneys worked together to gain passage of the law that created the Fund.

The League of Women Voters, American Bar Association, AARP, N.C. Voters for Clean Elections, and many other groups applaud the program. So do former Gov. Jim Hunt (D) and Gov. Jim Holshouser (R) and civic leaders like William Friday. Over 70% of N.C. voters say they want more information about judicial candidates and want courts free of political pressure. The new Fund can help – but only if people mark "Yes" on the check-off.

For more information, go to [www.lwvnc.org](http://www.lwvnc.org) or [ncjudges.org](http://ncjudges.org) or call Kim Strach at the State Board of Elections: 919-733-7173.