

Alaska Judicial Council
Vote Summaries
1984-Present

For Senate Judiciary Committee

April 15, 2019

The Judicial Council has permanent records of selection vote tallies going back to 1984. During this period, the Council members voted on 1,389 candidates (casting 7,930 votes). The Council members' votes on those candidates were either unanimous or unanimous-but-for-one most of the time (82.7%). This high rate of agreement among Council members is indicative of the thorough, collaborative, and objective process used to evaluate judicial applicants.

Rarely, the Council members do not agree, and the chief justice is called upon to vote. This has happened for only 75 candidates out of the total 1,389. As shown below, the instances in which a chief justice has been called upon to vote have been decreasing over time.

Table 1 Timing of Chief Justice Votes for Any Tie Vote	
Years	Number of CJ Votes
1984 - 1994	31
1995 – 2005	21
2006 – 2016	19
2017 – present	4
Total	75/1,389

Of the 75 times a chief justice has voted, he or she usually votes “yes” to send the name to the governor (76% of these chief justice votes are “yes” votes).

Of these 75 instances in which the Chief Justice voted, only 19 involved attorney-nonattorney splits. When called upon to vote in attorney-nonattorney splits, chief justices sometimes agree with the attorneys and sometimes with the nonattorneys. Specifically, in 11 of the 19 instances, the chief justice voted with the attorneys, and in 8 instances he or she voted with the nonattorneys. Table 2 below shows all the instances by year in which the Chief Justice voted in attorney-nonattorney splits, indicates whether the chief

justice agreed with the nonattorneys, and compares the number of split vote situations to the total number of applicants voted on during the year in question.

Table 2 shows that 1986 was the year the chief justice voted most frequently in attorney-nonattorney splits (16% of all votes taken that year). Over the Council’s history, a chief justice has voted in attorney-nonattorney split situations about 1.3% of the time.

Year	Count of CJ Votes	CJ Agreed with Nonattorneys	Count of All Applicants Voted
1984	1	Yes	54
1986	1	No	6
1988	1	No	41
1992	2	Yes/No	44
1994	1	Yes	25
2007	1	No	69
2008	1	Yes	43
2010	1	Yes	32
2011	1	No	27
2012	4	No/No/No/No	103
2013	1	No	39
2014	1	No	11
2016	1	Yes	107
2018	2	Yes/Yes	89
Summary	19 CJ Votes in Atty-Nonattorney splits	CJ agree with nonattorneys 8 times and with attorneys 11 times	1,389 total applicants voted on