

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

### **For Immediate Release**

The Judiciary Committee of the Lancaster Bar Association reported today that in a recent ballot of its members, over 90% of those voting were in favor of retaining Judge Leslie Gorbey as Judge in the Court of Common Pleas.

James H. Thomas, Committee Chairman, said that a ballot was sent to members of the Lancaster Bar Association to vote "yes" or "no" on the question of retaining Judge Gorbey. 269 of the 751 Association members voted, with 246 voting for retention and 23 against.

Judge Gorbey was elected as a judge for a ten-year term beginning in 1998. Under Pennsylvania law sitting judges do not stand for reelection, rather are listed on the ballot and voters decide whether to retain them.

Certain groups this year are calling for voters to reject all judges up for retention election without any consideration of these judges' experience, qualifications or judicial records. This effort, according to Pennsylvania Bar Association President Andrew F. Susko, is "misguided" and "threatens to do severe and lasting damage to our judicial system." Rather, Susko adds, voters should "judge the judges fairly, based on their record of judicial service and their qualifications and fitness to serve." He called on Pennsylvanians to make their own informed choices on Election Day based on the merits of each judge individually.

"The Lancaster Bar Association retention ballot is a non-partisan evaluation by lawyers who know and deal with judges," Thomas said. "Hopefully the results of the vote provide worthwhile information to people seeking to become informed about their vote in this important election."

In addition to the vote on Judge Gorbey's retention, six new judges will be elected in the November General Election.