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## **Informed Voters Project garners influential support** *Conference of Chief Justices urges active participation*

**Washington, D.C.** – A unanimous vote by the Conference of Chief Justices (Conference) elevates support for the cause of improving public understanding of the role of the courts to the highest levels of the judiciary. The resolution in support of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) Informed Voters Project was adopted last week during the CCJ’s mid-year meetings held in Georgia.

The resolution states that “voters casting a ballot for judges rarely have available relevant, accurate, and easy to access information on individual candidates or on the role of the judiciary that would help voters understand qualities required of a good judge.” The Conference — membership includes the highest judicial officers in each state — also expressed concern about the rising number of television advertisements in state court elections, noting these ads are “sometimes sponsored by groups with an interest in the outcome of specific categories of cases. The proliferation of costly, negative, and often misleading advertising threatens to erode the differences between the judiciary and the holders of legislative or executive office.”

Acknowledging the role of voters in ensuring fair and impartial courts with an informed vote for judges at the ballot box, the resolution encourages state supreme courts, judicial associations, and all groups dedicated to a fair and impartial judiciary to actively participate in building public awareness of the Informed Voters Project.

The civics education campaign developed and led by NAWJ addresses what organizers see as a growing gap in civic literacy in our nation. The non-partisan voter education project is focused on increasing public awareness about the judicial system, informing voters that politics and special interest attacks have no place in the courts, and providing voters with the tools they need to exercise an informed vote in favor of fair and impartial courts.

To learn more about the NAWJ Informed Voters Project, view the educational tools that are available, and find out how you can get involved, log on to [www.ivp.nawj.org](http://www.ivp.nawj.org).

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