



Title: **Citizens group calls for voter attention to judicial elections**  
 Author: BY ELIZABETH DONALD News-Democrat  
 Size: 15.65 square inch  
 Belleville, IL Circulation: 54585



# Citizens group calls for voter attention to judicial elections

BY ELIZABETH DONALD  
*News-Democrat*

Travis Akin wants voters to take judicial elections seriously, and he stood outside metro-east courthouses Monday to say so.

Akin, who is part of the group Illinois Lawsuit Abuse Watch, stood outside the St. Clair and Madison County courthouses to hand out flyers encouraging voters to pay attention to the judges up for election this November.

He said it was "Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week."

"The basic message this year is, 'Good judges matter,'" Akin said. "I'm not telling people how to vote in judicial elections. I'm just trying to get them to take judicial elections seriously."

Akin said there is a lot of attention in commercial advertising and in the media about elections for Congress, governorships and local issues, but rarely as much attention is paid to judges who are elected to their posts.

"The metro-east economy continues to suffer from the region's costly reputation for unfair courts and

jackpot justice," Akin said. "Too many judges have allowed the personal injury lawyers to turn our courts into their own personally profitable playground."

He reminded voters that the courts in Madison and St. Clair counties have repeatedly been placed on various lists declaring them among the worst "judicial hellholes" in the nation.

Akin said at least four city governments in the area have signed a proclamation supporting lawsuit abuse awareness, including Godfrey, Troy, O'Fallon and Mascoutah.