
ATTACKS ON DEMOCRATIC JUDGES

KEY FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW



Judges must follow the law

- All defendants in Texas are legally guaranteed bail unless the prosecutors present evidence in a hearing that it should be denied



Judges can't campaign on their courtroom decisions

- Ethics rules (Canon 7A in Texas) prohibit judges from discussing active cases or using judicial decisions in political messaging



Stop Houston Murder PAC is propped up by big donors

- They're aiming to unseat judicial Democrats and influence the courts—not improve public safety



Democratic judges pursue safety and reforms

- They've expanded mental health courts and youth courts, and cut down large dockets.

KEY FACTS ABOUT DEMOCRATIC JUDGES' ROLE & LIMITS

Judges must follow the law

All defendants in Texas are legally guaranteed bail unless the prosecutors present evidence in a hearing that it should be denied. This has been written by the Texas Legislature, controlled by the Republican party for the last 30 years

Judges can't campaign on their courtroom decisions

Ethics rules (Canon 7A in Texas) prohibit judges from discussing active cases or using judicial decisions in political messaging (txcourts.gov)

WHAT STOP HOUSTON MURDER PAC IS SAYING

- They claim "soft-on-crime" judges are letting dangerous offenders go, causing murders
- They say crime spiked after Democrats took over in 2018
- Their website asserts that Houston was safe before 2018, then homicide surged after Democratic judges took control (stophoustonmurders.com)
- They allege deep funding by "big money firms" to influence courts—not genuine safety concerns (houstonchronicle.com)

COUNTERPOINTS FOR THE PUBLIC

Claim by PAC

"Judges release violent criminals"

"Crime soared after Democrats took over"

"PAC funded by corporate interests, not safety"

"Judges are soft on crime"

Reality Check

Texas law requires bail hearings not automatic release. Judges must follow that standard

Violent crime trends follow national patterns. In 2024, homicides dropped ~13%, violent crime dropped ~10% compared to 2021

Stop Houston Murders is backed by large donors aiming to unseat judicial Democrats so the corporate donors are not held accountable to the public—they are not grassroots safety advocates

Democratic judges have imposed higher bail on violent felonies than many Republican judges, while setting fair bonds for low-level cases. They've also expanded mental health courts, youth courts, and significantly cut down case backlogs post-Harvey

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

Judicial independence safeguards your rights

These judges are an essential check in keeping the system fair—a judge removed under political pressure could compromise fairness and due process.

Public safety and justice are not mutually exclusive

Democratic judges pursue both—public safety through appropriate bail, and reforming systems (mental health, young adults)—rather than random political scapegoating.

Focus on policies, not personalities

If public safety is the goal, advocacy should push for gun laws, mental health resources, and fair criminal justice—not politicizing judges who are following the rule of law.

FINAL POINTS

- **Trust our system:** Judges don't make arbitrary decisions—they follow state law and constitutional limits on bail.
- **Check the data:** Crime is trending down, not up.
- **Unmask the agenda:** These attacks are politically motivated, part of a big-money effort to change the judiciary to republican for their monetary gains.
- **Support effective solutions:** Invest in mental health courts, youth courts, and targeted legislation—not political vendettas.

