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Topic #1 September 1986

Should Chief Justice Rose Bird Be Reconfirmed

In the Upcoming November 4, 1986 California Election?

Highlights

Pro (*Supporters Claim*)

Chief Justice Bird voted with the majority of the court 94.8% of the time in reversing 55 of 58 death penalty cases. (See page 27)

The California Supreme Court has upheld convictions in more than 90% of all criminal appeals since Chief Justice Bird joined the court. (See page 16)

Chief Justice Bird is a thoughtful, thorough jurist. (See page 15)

Chief Justice Bird has been widely praised for her administrative competence. (See page 20)

Six of 15 U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justices, including the highly regarded Earl Warren, had no prior judicial experience. (See page 19)

Con (*Opponents Claim*)

Chief Justice Bird has voted to reverse 100% of the 58 death penalty cases reviewed by the California Supreme Court. (See page 27)

Between 1977 and 1982 Chief Justice Bird handed down verdicts that favored the defendant in about 75% of the cases reviewed by the court. (See page 16)

Chief Justice Bird's decisions are too often based on personal bias. (See page 15)

Chief Justice Bird's administration of the court has been poor. (See page 20)

Prior to her appointment to the California Supreme Court, Chief Justice Bird had no judicial experience. (See page 19)