

**From:** Bennett Rutledge  
**To:** [SoS Rulemaking](#)  
**Subject:** "Great Judges for a Great Colorado" Petition for Declaratory Order or Advisory Opinion ... a bold request.  
**Date:** Saturday, September 15, 2018 3:54:39 PM

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Mr. Williams,

Title II, Section 5 of the Colorado Constitution reads:

All elections shall be free and open, and no power, civil or military, shall at any time interfere to prevent the free exercise of the right of suffrage.

Speaking for myself, I believe that a judicial retention question is an issue, similar to constitutional questions elsewhere on the ballot. My sense is that treating such as a "race", election, or political contest is placing it in the same category as an election in the old Soviet Union, where only one candidate, approved by those already in power, is presented, and the voter must either vote for the "candidate" or have no say at all. At least in Constitutional questions, bond issues, etc. you can also say "no." What "Great Judges for a Great Colorado" is advocating and/or opposing clearly falls in this "yes or no" category and clearly is not about any contest among candidates.

I have seen too many people already feeling shut out of the political process. Without a change of policy, this can only get worse. What is needed is a policy which has more people getting together to express themselves on issues they consider important, with the fewest arbitrary restrictions.

I say we should treat "Great Judges for a Great Colorado" as an issue committee.

I'll be looking forward to hearing your decision. Thank you.

Bennett Rutledge  
Centennial, CO  
