Retain Gonzalez on state Supreme Court

BY SEATTLE TIMES EDITORIAL BOARD
October 23, 2018 01:22 PM
Updated October 23, 2018 01:36 PM

Washington voters have no choice but to re-elect the three state Supreme Court justices running for re-election this year.

Fortunately the incumbents, Susan Owens, Sheryl McCloud and Steve Gonzalez, are all eminently qualified.

While there may be various points of disagreement with each, they are members of a strong, feisty and productive panel that’s also active in efforts to improve the judicial system statewide, address bias and broaden participation.

Generations of Washingtonians should benefit from the current justices’ firm hand in education reform, which forced Gov. Jay Inslee and legislators to finally fulfill their constitutional obligation to amply fund public schools via the McCleary case.

Only Gonzalez faces a challenge on the ballot, from Nathan Choi, a Bellevue attorney. Choi is not a reasonable option. He failed to abide by state campaign disclosure rules during a 2017 run for appellate judge and appears to be doing so again this year. He was also admonished by the King County Bar Association for falsely describing himself as a judge in campaign ads last fall.

Gonzalez, a former federal prosecutor and King County Superior Court judge, was appointed justice in 2011 and elected in 2012. While this board is concerned that Gonzalez may not be a strong advocate for public records, especially in a pending case in which the Legislature is seeking special treatment to be less transparent than other public agencies, he is nevertheless a high-performing justice deserving voters’ support.
Owens and McCloud initially faced challengers, but they were unqualified and won’t appear on the Nov. 6 ballot.

The dearth of challengers is disappointing. Even if incumbents are the best choice, they need to be pressed to defend their records and explain to voters why they deserve another six-year term. The court could also benefit from more geographic diversity since it serves the entire state. It now has two nonwhite members and six of nine justices are women, but justices are almost entirely from the Puget Sound region.

COMMENTS

SPONSORED CONTENT

The inspiring story of twin sisters & Peloton Members who ride their Peloton Bikes 3000 miles apart.

By Peloton — Coworkers & co-conspirators in one another’s dreams and devoted competitors on their Peloton bikes.

SUGGESTED FOR YOU

Paul Allen’s Cause of Death is Revealed, and It Is Horrifying
Ford Friend Told FBI She Was Pressured Into Altering Statement
‘Fox & Friends’ Host ‘Devastated’ by Husband Filing for Divorce
Suspected Khashoggi Killer Reportedly Just Died in a Car Crash
Evidence That Aliens May Have Already Visited Earth
The Biggest Scandals That Completely Shook the Food Network
10 Things You Can Be 100% Sure About Owning Tesla Stock
The Messed Up Part of ‘White Christmas’ Everyone Just Ignores
Malia Obama’s Boyfriend Comes From A Lot of Money
What Prison Life is Really Like for Bill Cosby
This is Why Ariana Grande Dumped Pete Davidson
One Ticket Scoops $1.6B Mega Millions Jackpot

By continuing to use this site, you give your consent to our use of cookies for analytics, personalization and ads. Read more