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I've had some inquiries into ballot measures and judges. You'll find narratives that have been written about each of the judges on the ballot in the very back of the Blue Book which was mailed to you recently. Most people struggle with knowing how to get information on the judges and whether or not they're worthy of retaining so I thought I'd share some information with you regarding judges I've done evaluations on.

Until recently, I sat on the State Judicial Performance Review Commission that does performance evaluations on our Colorado Appellate and Supreme Court Justices. I resigned once I knew I'd be filing as a Candidate's Committee for HD49 for 2010 (as you may know, I plan to run for any Vacancy that may occur in that House seat and since you cannot be a candidate and sit on this Commission I resigned). What I can tell you about the two Supreme Court Justices up for retention is that they are both very worthy of retaining. Justice Allison Eids is a great conservative and like me, is a member of the Colorado Federalist Society which fights against judicial activism. Justice Greg Hobbs is a renowned expert on water law and is well thought of in Colorado.

Otherwise, you'll find the Commission either gave "unanimous recommendations" for retention of the Appellate Court Judges or they would simply say that they "recommended retention." The latter phrase is a clue to you that means that some on the Commission were not in favor of retaining them. I can tell you that the Republicans on the Commission are in the minority. You'll find that with the judges who did not receive unanimous recommendations, their problems will be identified by the Commission in their narrative in the Blue Book.

The Appellate Justices hold very important positions since all of the District Court cases that are appealed go before a panel of these judges and the cases chosen by the "Supremes" are chosen from within the cases heard by the Appellates. If they do not stay up to date on the law, seem prejudiced or unfair in various ways or make bad judgments - well, I can only say to you that it's very important that we have the best and the brightest attorneys in those positions. Don't be afraid of voting to "not retain" them. I don't believe these positions were ever meant to be lifetime positions. The ones who were given "unanimous recommendations" by the Commission are worthy of retention.