

Former MSC CJ endorses public elections for selecting judges

17. September 2010 By John Bursch

Responding to a recent article in the *New York Times* that called for states to select judges through [merit-based appointments](#) rather than through public elections, former Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Cliff Taylor wrote a letter to the editor endorsing public elections. “Having been defeated in my last election for Michigan’s Supreme Court,” he wrote, “I understand better than most how negative campaigns and innuendo-laced attack ads are distorting the selection of high court judges.” That said, so-called “merit selection” merely “drives the politics of judicial selection underground.” “The real question is whether we want the debate to take place openly in the public square, or behind closed doors.” The entire letter can be found [here](#).