



WISCONSIN SHERIFFS & DEPUTY SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

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Editor/Opinion Page

Re: Wisconsin Supreme Court Race

The race for the State Supreme Court between Justice Louis Butler and Judge Michael Gableman is a very important one. That fact should be obvious to anyone paying attention to all of the radio and television ads surrounding this election. Unfortunately, as the ads for both candidates have turned somewhat negative, many people have turned a deaf ear to it all. As a result, many citizens do not fully understand the great importance this race will play in the future of Wisconsin.

Within the current Supreme Court there is an obvious 4 to 3 split with a liberal majority and a conservative minority. The liberal majority is a product of a gubernatorial appointment several years ago of Justice Louis Butler to the Court to replace a more conservative Justice, Diane Sykes, who took a Federal Judgeship.

Since the liberal mindset became the majority opinion, the Court has become decidedly left leaning and has repeatedly demonstrated a propensity for legislating from the bench. Furthermore, the current Court, through liberal interpretation of the constitution, has shown a general bias against good honest law enforcement, and against the victims of crime, in favor of criminals and defense lawyers.

Simply put, the current Court has made it more difficult for law enforcement to protect the public from criminals. That is why the Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association, more than 50 of the 72 individual Sheriffs throughout the state, more than 50 police chiefs, and the vast majority of District Attorneys in this state, all have chosen to publicly endorse Judge Michael Gableman in his effort to be elected to this state's highest court.

Unlike the alternative, Judge Gableman comes from a law enforcement background, having a long history as a prosecutor, and knows the challenges of law enforcement. Both as a prosecutor and judge he has shown his support for victims, and the fair treatment of criminals, while interpreting and applying the law and the constitution, in a fair no nonsense manner. Law enforcement and the citizens of this state need Judge Gableman in the Supreme Court. That is why the WSDSA, along with most Sheriffs, District Attorneys, and many Police Chiefs from throughout the state, support Judge Gableman.

This Supreme Court race is extremely important as it will have an immediate and long lasting impact on the lives of all the citizens of this state. Law enforcement and the voters of this state need a change in order to preserve the qualities of this great state. No one can afford to continue in the direction that this Court is sending us. I am concerned and you should be as well.

Sheriff Maury Straub, Ozaukee County
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