

## **Justices on Supreme Court Election Campaigns**

“I have long believed that public financing of judicial elections would be a salutary step towards increasing public confidence and respect for our judicial branch of government.”

Michael F. Cavanagh, Justice, Michigan Supreme Court  
Correspondence, February 4, 2008

“I certainly agree that the Legislature should seriously consider a bill to provide for public financing of Michigan Supreme Court campaigns. Properly worded, such a bill could reduce some of the public concern over flaws in our present system.”

Marilyn Kelly, Justice, Michigan Supreme Court  
Correspondence, February 4, 2008

“I am certainly supportive of your efforts for much needed reforms for campaign finance in the selection process for Michigan Supreme Court Justices.”

Elizabeth A. Weaver, Justice, Michigan Supreme Court  
Correspondence, February 14, 2008

“My advisers tell me I’ll have to raise \$1 million or more to run a Supreme Court race. How can this not be a problem? The public has a right to ask: ‘If you have to raise \$1 million, can you really be impartial?’”

Robert P. Young, Jr., Justice, Michigan Supreme Court  
*George*, January 2001

“Judicial elections are becoming political prizefights where partisans and special interests seek to install judges who will answer to them instead of the law and the constitution. I hope that every state that elects judges in partisan elections will consider reforms.”

Sandra Day O’Connor, Justice, retired, U.S. Supreme Court  
Justice at Stake news release, May 17, 2007

“Motivated interest groups are pouring money into judicial elections in record amounts. Whether or not they succeed in their attempts to sway the voters, these efforts threaten the integrity of judicial selection and compromise public perception of judicial decisions.”

Sandra Day O’Connor, Justice, retired, U.S. Supreme Court  
*Wall Street Journal*, November 15, 2007

“We write to support the concept of realistic, meaningful public financing for Supreme Court elections to facilitate and protect the judicial function. The risk inherent in any non-publicly funded judicial election for this Court is that the public may inaccurately perceive a justice as beholden to individuals or groups that contribute to his or her campaign”

Shirley S. Abrahamson, Chief Justice; Ann Walsh Bradley, N. Patrick Crooks, David T. Prosser, Jr., Patience D. Roggensack, Louis B. Butler, Annette Kingsland Ziegler,  
Justices, Wisconsin Supreme Court  
In correspondence to the Governor and Legislature of Wisconsin, December 12, 2007