

Candidate Questionnaire

WA Supreme Court, Position 3

Candidate Information

Your Name: Judge Jaime Hawk

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1. Constitutional philosophy:

When you interpret the Washington Constitution, what principles guide you in deciding what the constitution requires, particularly when the answer is politically controversial?

My judicial philosophy is grounded in commitment to the law and to the constitutional principles that protect individual rights. I approach every case without preconceptions, giving fair consideration to all parties. I also believe that the law must work in practice, not just on paper, and that a justice must understand how appellate rulings affect real people's lives. If a legal question is politically controversial, that fact will have no impact on how I approach a case. Every case deserves careful attention regardless of the issue before the Court.

2. Environment:

What role should the Washington Constitution play in protecting the state's natural resources and environment, and how would you approach a case where environmental protection conflicts with economic development?

I am grateful to be endorsed by Washington Conservation Action and Sierra Club.

The Constitution protects individual rights against government action. For any case involving legal environmental protections, I will follow the law within all appropriate statutory and constitutional frameworks.

3. Judicial independence:

Can you describe a case or legal position where your decision put you at odds with powerful political or economic interests, and how you handled that pressure?

Before becoming a judge, I was an attorney with the ACLU of Washington. I was also previously a state and federal public defender. Through this work, I regularly took on powerful interests, including the full power of the federal government. As a judge, I have always followed the law, regardless of whether such a decision is at odds with powerful political or economic interests.