

Letter: Judge Titus has served Carroll well since appointment

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I write in support of retaining Judge Richard Titus on the Circuit Court for Carroll County.

Circuit Court judges, unlike all other levels of the judiciary (District Court; Court of Special Appeals; Court of Appeals), must run in the next election for a 15 year term after being appointed by the Governor.

Judge Titus, prior to being appointed, had to go through an intensive vetting process. First, a lengthy application must be completed, which includes details of education and professional experience, writing samples, significant trials litigated, community involvement and references.

The applications are then reviewed by the Judicial Nominating Commission, which consists of local attorneys and lay people. The Commission then interviews all the applicants and submits a "short list" of at least 3 names to the Governor.

The Governor's Office of Legal Counsel then conducts its own review process, after which those on the "short list" are interviewed by the Governor, who then makes the appointment.

That is where Judge Titus stands today. He has gone through this extensive vetting process, made the "short list," was interviewed and appointed by Gov. [Larry Hogan](#) .

Judge Titus clerked for a Circuit Court Judge in Carroll County, and was then engaged in the private practice of law in Carroll County for over 20 years, before being named to the bench. He and his wife have lived in Carroll County for 26 years and he has been deeply involved in the community. His two children attended Carroll County Public Schools.

One of his opponents, George Psoras, only recently established a Carroll County residence and has never maintained his office here. He has chosen not to subject himself to the intensive vetting process that Judge Titus went through, but rather, appears to be attempting to buy a judgeship, with voluminous signs, billboards and a mailer that is, at best, misleading.

His other opponent, Maria Oesterreicher, has applied for the last four judicial vacancies in Carroll County. Her name was not included on the "short list" submitted by the Judiciary Nominating Commission to the Governor for any of those vacancies.

In summary, Judge Richard Titus was found to be one of the top applicants by a committee of his peers and non-lawyers alike, and was interviewed and appointed by Gov. Hogan. He has served with distinction since his appointment. He deserves your vote for a full term on the Circuit Court for Carroll County.

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The writer is a three-term member of the Judicial Nominating Commission.

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