

Press Release By
Former Idaho Supreme Court Justice Robert C. Huntley
Endorsing District Judge John Bradbury for Idaho Supreme Court

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It has been my practice to refrain from involvement in elections for judicial positions because I believe that judicial elections should be non-political and focused on the qualifications and merits of the applicants.

However, both a former Supreme Court Justice and a sitting Supreme Court Justice have weighed in publicly on the side of an incumbent against Judge John Bradbury. Additionally, the Idaho Bar Association has published a poll which is scientifically and statistically unsound and biases the process in favor of the incumbent. Therefore, having knowledge of Judge Bradbury's qualifications, it is my duty to speak out.

Having practiced before Judge Bradbury and having known him for a number of years, I respect him as one of Idaho's most outstanding judges. He is intellectually far above average, while employing a common sense approach to his work in applying the law and honoring the Constitution in the cases before him. He is timely in the processing of his workload, open and fair to all litigants and attorneys who appear before him, and he is diligent and scholarly in his research, all of which result in his being one of Idaho's finest jurists.

Judge Bradbury does not permit either politics or friendships to interfere with his approach to justice. Sadly, that cannot be said of incumbent Justice Burdick. For example, Justice Burdick voted with Justices Trout, Kidwell, Hurlbutt and Jim Jones in their politically motivated decision in the School Facilities Funding lawsuit decided on December 21, 2005.

There, Justice Burdick concurred in the decision which ruled that the current system of funding education does not meet the standards required by the Idaho Constitution, yet the Court lacked the courage and will to require the Idaho Legislature to meet its constitutional responsibilities. Instead the Court denied the school patrons of Idaho, on behalf of the children of Idaho, their right to full due process, that is, to require that the Legislature meet the mandate required under Article IX Section 1 of the Idaho Constitution to provide a system of taxation which will enable all school districts, regardless of size and location, to provide safe and adequate facilities.

Judge Bradbury will be a welcome addition to the Supreme Court bench. He will lend both trial experience and judicial experience, cloaked with scholarship and common sense, to his work on behalf of the people of Idaho.

I commend him to the Voters of Idaho for elevation to the position of Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court.

Robert C. Huntley
Former Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court