

September 23, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am in receipt of the Center for Arizona Policy's September 9, 2024 letter and attached Judicial Candidate Survey. Thank you for providing me an opportunity to educate the people of Arizona about my judicial philosophy and how I approach cases that come before the Arizona Supreme Court. I believe the best way to describe my judicial philosophy is through this written letter.

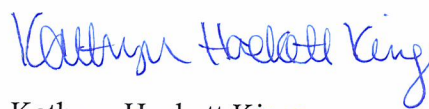
By way of background, I served in all three branches of government before I was appointed to the Arizona Supreme Court. These positions instilled in me a deep understanding of how each branch of government operates with our constitutional framework, including the role of the judicial branch.

The United States Constitution divides the federal government into three branches: legislative (Article I), executive (Article II), and judicial (Article III). The Arizona Constitution makes this separation of powers explicit: "The powers of the government of the state of Arizona shall be divided into three separate departments, the legislative, the executive, and the judicial; and, except as provided in this constitution, such departments shall be separate and distinct, and no one of such departments shall exercise the powers properly belonging to either of the others." *See* Ariz. Const. art. 3. In short, the legislative branch makes the laws. The executive branch enforces the laws. The judicial branch interprets and applies the laws.

As a Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court, it is my duty to interpret the laws governing this State in an independent and impartial manner. I interpret the law in accordance with the text of the law as written, determining the meaning of a statutory or constitutional provision by looking at the plain meaning of the words the drafters chose to use. I apply this approach when interpreting a constitutional provision, a statute drafted by the legislature, or a law adopted directly by Arizona voters. This approach avoids interpretating the law in a manner that is subjective or based on a particular outcome or policy. By independently and impartially interpreting the text of the law as written, I adhere to the proper role of the judiciary within the three branches of government. I respect that it is the people of the State of Arizona—either directly at the ballot or through their elected representatives—who are responsible for determining the policy of this State. As a judicial officer, I do not make such policy.

These standards guide my judicial approach. In all cases, I seek to faithfully and impartially interpret the text of the applicable provision before the Court, and then apply that law to the facts of the case. This responsibility is critical to an independent judiciary. And it is one that I take seriously and work each day to carry out to the best of my ability. It is a tremendous honor to serve the people of Arizona as a Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Hackett King
Justice, Arizona Supreme Court