

Retain Florida State Supreme Court Justice Alan Lawson? TPM: YES

Explanation Why:

From one of our vetting team:

I believe (Tea Party Manatee) should recommend a YES vote for Lawson. The lefties are in control of the FL Supreme Court because of Jeb (Bush) and Charlie (Crist) and prior Dem Governors.

Voters retain a voice, however, in what are called retention elections. This is the first one for Lawson, whom Gov. Rick Scott promoted from the Fifth District Court of Appeal last year.

Scott, a Republican, has appointed one justice, Alan Lawson, who is generally aligned with what is viewed as the conservative minority on the court.

Scott said he asked the Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission to begin a process that includes accepting and reviewing applications, interviewing candidates and making nominations for appointment. The process will lead to replacements for longtime justices Barbara Pariente, R. Fred Lewis and Peggy Quince, who are required to leave the court in January because of reaching a mandatory retirement age.

Appointments of Supreme Court justices are always important, but Pariente, Lewis and Quince — along with Justice Jorge Labarga — are widely considered a left-leaning majority on the seven-member court. That has led to the possibility that their replacements could spur a rightward shift of the court.

In the announcement Tuesday, Scott's office said he would invite the governor-elect to interview the court nominees after the general election. The governor's office pointed to an "expectation" that Scott and his successor would be able to agree on appointments.

If that happens, it would follow the lead of outgoing Democratic Gov. Lawton Chiles and Republican Governor-elect Jeb Bush in late 1998 agreeing to appoint Quince to the Supreme Court.

(Here is an example, below, of the work of the leftist justices):

This was a nasty murder of an 11 year old girl—the leftist SC judges tossed the death sentence:

[Florida Supreme Court tosses death sentence in Carlie Brucia murder case](#)

A divided Florida Supreme Court on Thursday ordered resentencing ... **Justices Charles Canady, Ricky Polston and Alan Lawson dissented**. Canady and Polston did not explain their dissent. <https://www.bradenton.com/news/local/crime/article208034454.html>