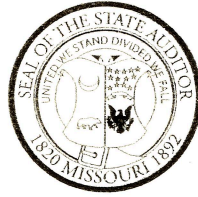


State Capitol
201 W. Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65101



(573) 751-4213
www.auditor.mo.gov

SCOTT FITZPATRICK
MISSOURI STATE AUDITOR

September 18, 2026

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Support for the nomination of Jesus A. Osete to the United States District
Court for the Western District of Missouri**

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

I am writing today to offer my full endorsement and support of the nomination of Jesus A. Osete to serve as a United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri.

As Missouri State Auditor, I serve as Missouri's independent taxpayer watchdog. The Auditor's job is to follow the facts, examine the record, and hold government accountable, regardless of who is involved or what the political consequences may be. Independence and impartiality are not abstract principles in this office, they are essential to doing the job correctly.

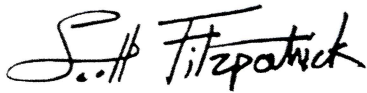
Those characteristics are also integral to the rule of law and why I believe Jesus Osete will be an exceptional judge. During his impressive career, Jesus has served as Deputy Solicitor General and as Deputy Attorney General for Special Litigation in the Missouri Attorney General's Office, General Counsel to the Missouri Secretary of State, and in senior leadership at the United States Department of Justice. He has also clerked for Judge Bobby Shepherd of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and then-Chief Justice Zel Fischer of the Supreme Court of Missouri, and has argued before the Supreme Court of the United States. Throughout all of these experiences, Jesus has never wavered from his commitment to thoroughly review the facts, and when needed provide difficult advice.

That experience matters because a good judge cannot simply decide cases based on who is arguing them or which side is more politically popular. The responsibility of a judge is different from that of an advocate. A judge must listen to the parties, consider the facts, apply the law, and reach a decision without regard to political pressure or personal preference.

This is particularly important to me as Missouri's State Auditor. The taxpayers I represent expect me to call things as I see them. They expect an independent watchdog, not someone formulates his conclusions based on political expedience. I believe Jesus approaches the law with that same sense of independence and responsibility.

I am confident that Jesus Osete understands the solemn responsibility that comes with wearing the robe. He has the legal experience, public-service background, and commitment to the rule of law necessary to approach each case independently and impartially. I am proud to support his nomination and respectfully urge the Committee to advance it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Fitzpatrick". The signature is stylized, with a large "S" and a cursive "Fitzpatrick".

Scott Fitzpatrick
Missouri State Auditor