



interests. Where there is no appearance of impropriety, there is no reason why the electorate should not have the retiring district attorney's views as to which candidate is better or best qualified to succeed to the office. This exception would not, however, be applicable to the endorsement of candidates for other offices, or in situations where the retiring district attorney is a candidate for some other office.

Should a retiring prosecutor choose to endorse a successor's candidacy while still in office, his endorsement should be based upon his perceptions of the candidate's qualifications, not upon personal or partisan political considerations. Furthermore, such an endorsement would be inappropriate even where based upon honest perceptions of qualifications, if there is any substantial appearance of also being based upon personal or partisan political considerations. Cf. EC 8-6.

For the reasons stated, and subject to the foregoing limitations, we answer the question posed in the affirmative.

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