Libertarian CATO Institute endorses Trump SCOTUS picks, still not on train

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Trump has previously promised to release a list of his Supreme Courts during the cycle, but no one knew when it would come. Trump surprised the world this week by releasing a shortlist of his potential Supreme Court Nominees. Candidates normally don't release a short list so early in the election cycle, if ever.

5 of the 11 judges already sit on State Supreme Courts. The list seems to sit well with conservatives.

High profile senators like Chuck Grassley have already endorsed the list. Now one of America's most respected Libertarian leaning institutes is piling on, the Cato Institute.

> "This is an exceptional list. I'm not intimately familiar with all 11 judges and I don't expect to agree with all of them on everything, but those whose jurisprudence I know well are excellent and the others have sterling reputations. These are not squishes or lightweights."

The Cato Institute bills itself as "a public policy research organization — a think tank — dedicated to the principles of individual liberty, limited government, free markets and peace. It's a pretty big deal that these folks have endorsed the list.

Cato hasn't endorsed candidate Trump himself yet, and isn't apt to. Ilya Shapiro, a Senior Fellow at Cato, writes "I'm no fan of the Donald – and who knows whether he'd follow through if elected? – but he's listening to the right advisers here."

Trump even took an opportunity to portray himself as the bigger man. One of his picks has mocked the Presidential Candidate on Twitter.

The list is a reminder that this election isn't just a referendum on the Donald. The next president will likely have the opportunity to tip the balance of the Supreme Court for a generation.

Trumps picks go as follows: Steven Colloton of Iowa, Allison Eid of Colorado, Raymond Gruender of Missouri, Thomas Hardiman of Pennsylvania, Raymond Kethledge of Michigan, Joan Larsen of Michigan, Thomas Lee of Utah, William Pryor of Alabama, David Stras of Minnesota, Diane Sykes of Wisconsin and Don Willett of Texas.