

Jesus Osete, President Trump's judicial nominee for the Western District of Missouri, has spent his career decimating civil rights from his mantle in state and federal government. Osete started his career with a brief stint in private practice, before joining the Missouri attorney general's office to serve as deputy solicitor general. Osete went on to become deputy solicitor general for special litigation, until he left for the Missouri Secretary of State's Office to serve as general counsel. In 2023, Osete went back to private practice before exiting in 2025 to become deputy assistant attorney general for the civil rights division at Trump's Department of Justice (DOJ).

Osete currently serves as the principal deputy assistant attorney general for civil rights at the DOJ, where he helps carry out Trump's agenda, litigating cases about state voter rolls, cruel immigration policies, and alleged antisemitism on college campuses. If confirmed to the district court, Osete will not honor the rule of law. Instead, he will act as a partisan puppet for the Trump administration and destroy fundamental civil rights, codifying the damage for years to come.

LEADS THE RESOLUTE DESTRUCTION OF CRITICAL VOTING RIGHTS

Curiously, during the 2016 presidential primary election, Osete wrote about the very "evils of voter suppression," even though that was a focus of his work with Missouri Attorney General Schmitt and Trump's DOJ. He noted that reducing the number of polling locations and requiring voter ID "likely serve as pretexts for discriminatory actions against minorities" and encouraged voters to support representatives interested in curtailing voter suppression. Despite these public declarations, Osete has actually spent his career repeatedly attacking the fundamental right to vote.

In both his state and federal government roles, Osete has had his hands in nearly every significant voting rights litigation that's recently occurred. In just three years at the DOJ, Osete has been heavily involved in voting rights cases that eviscerated the Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, empowered candidates to challenge election laws that govern the elections they are running in, reinstated racially discriminatory maps for congressional elections in Alabama and Texas, and intruded on the state of New York's Independent Redistricting Commission's ability to draw fair maps. He also supported litigation that would have resulted in disenfranchising voters whose mail-in ballots arrived after Election Day (disproportionality marginalizing communities like those with disabilities and older voters). Osete was also involved in writing a brief in support of case currently in front of the Supreme Court in its 2026–2027 term, which, if successful, would bar Arizonians who register to vote without documentary proof of citizenship (e.g., a birth certificate or U.S. passport) from voting for president in any federal election. Even earlier in Osete's career while working in Missouri, he was supporting efforts to push the "independent state legislature theory," a debunked constitutional theory that would render state courts and state constitutions powerless in matters relating to the federal election.

Notably, Osete also was involved in challenging California's Proposition 50 congressional redistricting map, which California voters had overwhelmingly voted for in response to Texas's mid-decade redistricting.

LEADS THE RESOLUTE DESTRUCTION OF CRITICAL VOTING RIGHTS (CONT.)

Despite it winning with 64% of the votes, the California Republican party and voters filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the congressional map. Osete was involved in submitting a brief in support of the challengers, throwing the DOJ's weight behind another anti-voting lawsuit. Despite his writing on the fundamental importance of voting rights, Osete's actions continue to demonstrate that he has no qualms working to make it harder for everyday people to participate in democracy. Missourians deserve a judge who will support their rights, not one who will go to great lengths to ensure their destruction.

ATTACKED LIFE-SAVING VACCINE MANDATES

While at the Missouri attorney general's office, Osete led the lawsuit that challenged the Biden administration's COVID-19 vaccine mandates for health care workers in *Biden v. Missouri*. At the height of the pandemic, Biden's Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued the rule requiring nearly all health care workers at facilities that participated in Medicare or Medicaid to be fully vaccinated unless they qualified for an exemption. Osete led the case, completing the briefing and arguing the case in front of the Supreme Court. He argued that the rule was an intrusion on traditional state powers and wasn't allowed because it affected so many workers. A 5-4 decision from the Supreme Court kept the rule in place, reasoning that the HHS's core function is to ensure health care providers protect their patients' health and safety, and the rule did just that.

TARGETS REPRODUCTIVE CARE

Osete also used his role in Missouri's government to attack access to reproductive freedom and harm Missourians who are seeking access to abortions. Osete was involved in the petition for writ of certiorari to the Eighth Circuit in *Schmitt v. Reprod. Health Servs. of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region, Inc.*, where challengers sued to block restrictions from Missouri's HB 126, which banned abortions after eight weeks of pregnancy and prohibited abortions sought because of Down syndrome. After the Eighth Circuit upheld the lower court's injunction blocking the eight-week ban and Down syndrome ban from going into effect, Osete helped lead efforts to overturn the injunction and reinstate those restrictions. Osete also participated in a Federalist Society debate in 2023 called "Post-Dobbs Abortion Legislation in Missouri," arguing against legal theories that could support a right to abortion in states where it was restricted after the Supreme Court overturned decades old precedent supporting the right to an abortion.

Osete is a political opportunist, who has supported the wrong side of destructive litigation in nearly every major case across several Supreme Court terms, including cases that restricted transgender youth from participating in school athletics, that limited an individual's ability to hold government official accountable when they violate their religious rights, and that could prevent employees who experience sex discrimination from obtaining justice. He will not honor Constitution, but will instead serve those whose agendas will result in him obtaining more access to power. He is not fit to serve Missourians in a lifetime seat on the federal judiciary.