

Judicial Merit Selection Commission

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John T. Lay
Peter D. Protopapas
Christian Stegmaier
The Honorable Joseph Monroe Strickland



Erin B. Crawford, Chief Counsel
Kate Crater, Counsel

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As of January 28, 2026

The Judicial Merit Selection Commission held public hearings during the week of November 17-20, and determined the following judicial candidates to be qualified:

Supreme Court

Seat 2

The Honorable Ralph K. Anderson III, Columbia, SC
The Honorable John Cannon Few, Mountain Rest, SC
The Honorable Blake A. Hewitt, Conway, SC
Jay Lucas, Hartsville, SC

Court of Appeals

Seat 7

The Honorable Stephanie P. McDonald, Charleston, SC

Circuit Court

3rd Judicial Circuit, Seat 2

Will Wheeler, Bishopville, SC

11th Judicial Circuit, Seat 3

The Honorable Debbie McCaslin, Chapin, SC

12th Judicial Circuit, Seat 3

The Honorable H. Steven DeBerry, IV, Pamplico, SC

16th Judicial Circuit, Seat 2

Melissa A. Inzerillo, Rock Hill, SC

Misti Shelton, Rock Hill, SC

At-Large, Seat 5

The Honorable Milton G. Kimpson, Columbia, SC

Family Court

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| 3rd Judicial Circuit, Seat 2 | E. Thompson Kinney, Sumter, SC |
| 4th Judicial Circuit, Seat 3 | The Honorable Elizabeth Biggerstaff York, Darlington, SC |
| 6th Judicial Circuit, Seat 2 | The Honorable Debra A. Matthews, Blackstock, SC |
| 9th Judicial Circuit, Seat 5 | The Honorable Spiros Stavros Ferderigos, Charleston, SC |
| 9th Judicial Circuit, Seat 7 | Marissa K. Jacobson, Charleston, SC |
| 11th Judicial Circuit, Seat 4 | Elnora Jones Dean, Columbia, SC Rebecca West, Lexington, SC |
| 13th Judicial Circuit, Seat 5 | The Honorable Tarita A. Dunbar, Greenville, SC |
| 14th Judicial Circuit, Seat 3 | Scarlet B. Moore, Greenville, SC The Honorable Larry W. Weidner II, Bluffton, SC |
| 14th Judicial Circuit, Seat 4 | Scarlet B. Moore, Greenville, SC Catherine Webb, Saint Helena Island, SC |
| 15th Judicial Circuit, Seat 3 | The Honorable Melissa M. Frazier, Myrtle Beach, SC |
| <u>Administrative Law Court</u> Seat 4 | Jason P. Luther, Columbia, SC Kelly Rainsford, Columbia, SC Michael S. Traynham, Columbia, SC Nicole T. Wetherton, Blythewood, SC The Honorable Barbara “Bobbie” Wofford-Kanwat, Columbia, SC |
| Seat 6 | The Honorable S. Phillip “Phil” Lenski, Lexington, SC |

As a reminder, the record remains open until the final report is issued at 12:00 Noon, Monday, February 9, 2026. Accordingly, judicial candidates are not free to seek or accept commitments until that time.

The election is currently scheduled for Noon on Wednesday, March 4, 2026.

Correspondence and questions should be directed to the Judicial Merit Selection Commission as follows: Erin B. Crawford, Chief Counsel, erincrawford@scsenate.gov, (803) 212-6689, or Lindi Putnam, JMSC Administrative Assistant, lindi.putnam@scsenate.gov, (803) 212-6623.