

Judicial Merit Selection Commission

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The Honorable Joseph Monroe Strickland



Erin B. Crawford, Chief Counsel
Kate Crater, Counsel

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MEDIA RELEASE

November 20, 2025

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

Supreme Court

Seat 2

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

Court of Appeals

Seat 7

The Honorable Stephanie P. McDonald,	Qualified and Nominated
Charleston, SC	

Circuit Court

3rd Judicial Circuit, Seat 2

Will Wheeler,	Qualified and Nominated
Bishopville, SC	

11th Judicial Circuit, Seat 3

The Honorable Debbie McCaslin,	Qualified and Nominated
Chapin, SC	

12th Judicial Circuit, Seat 3

The Honorable H. Steven DeBerry, IV,	Qualified and Nominated
Pamplico, SC	

16th Judicial Circuit, Seat 2

Melissa A. Inzerillo,	Qualified and Nominated
Rock Hill, SC	
Misti Shelton,	Qualified and Nominated
Rock Hill, SC	

At-Large, Seat 5

The Honorable Milton G. Kimpson,	Qualified and Nominated
Columbia, SC	

Family Court

3rd Judicial Circuit, Seat 2

E. Thompson Kinney,	Qualified and Nominated
Sumter, SC	

4th Judicial Circuit, Seat 3	The Honorable Elizabeth Biggerstaff York, Darlington, SC	Qualified and Nominated
6th Judicial Circuit, Seat 2	The Honorable Debra A. Matthews, Blackstock, SC	Qualified and Nominated
9th Judicial Circuit, Seat 5	The Honorable Spiros Stavros Ferderigos, Charleston, SC	Qualified and Nominated
9th Judicial Circuit, Seat 7	Marissa K. Jacobson, Charleston, SC Anthony Philip LaMantia III, Charleston, SC Kelly Pope-Black, Daniel Island, SC	Qualified and Nominated Not Qualified Not Qualified
11th Judicial Circuit, Seat 4	Elnora Jones Dean, Columbia, SC Rebecca West, Lexington, SC	Qualified and Nominated Qualified and Nominated
13th Judicial Circuit, Seat 5	The Honorable Tarita A. Dunbar, Greenville, SC	Qualified and Nominated
14th Judicial Circuit, Seat 3	Scarlet B. Moore, Greenville, SC The Honorable Larry W. Weidner II, Bluffton, SC	Qualified and Nominated Qualified and Nominated
14th Judicial Circuit, Seat 4	Scarlet B. Moore, Greenville, SC Catherine Webb, Saint Helena Island, SC	Qualified and Nominated Qualified and Nominated
15th Judicial Circuit, Seat 3	The Honorable Melissa M. Frazier, Myrtle Beach, SC	Qualified and Nominated
<u>Administrative Law Court</u> Seat 4	Erika Easler, Chapin, SC 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	Not Qualified Qualified and Nominated Qualified and Nominated Qualified and Nominated Qualified and Nominated Qualified and Nominated
Seat 6	The Honorable S. Phillip “Phil” Lenski, Lexington, SC	Qualified and Nominated
<u>Master-in-Equity</u> Berkeley County	The Honorable J. Camden West, Moncks Corner, SC	Qualified
<u>Active Retired</u> Circuit Court	The Honorable Joseph Derham Cole (Ret.), Spartanburg, SC The Honorable Thomas W. Cooper Jr., Manning, SC The Honorable Thomas L. Hughston Jr., Charleston, SC The Honorable Steven H. John (Ret.), Little River, SC	Qualified Qualified Qualified Not Qualified

Family Court

The Honorable Ronald R. Norton, Murrells
Inlet, SC

Qualified

The Honorable William J. Wylie Jr., Fair
Play, SC

Qualified

As a reminder, the record remains open until the final report is issued at 12:00 Noon, Tuesday, February 10, 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, lindiputnam@scsenate.gov, (803) 212-6623.