

Judicial Merit Selection Commission

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MEDIA RELEASE

July 20, 2026

The Judicial Merit Selection Commission is accepting applications for the judicial offices listed below:

A vacancy exists in the office formerly held by the Honorable John Cannon Few, Justice of the Supreme Court, Seat 2. The successor will serve the remainder of the unexpired term of that office, which expires July 31, 2036.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable H. Bruce Williams, Judge of the Court of Appeals, Seat 5, Chief Judge, will expire June 30, 2027.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable Aphrodite K. Konduros, Judge of the Court of Appeals, Seat 6, will expire June 30, 2027.

A vacancy will exist in the office currently held by the Honorable George Marion McFaddin Jr., Judge of the Circuit Court, Third Judicial Circuit, Seat 3, upon his retirement on or before December 31, 2026. The successor will serve a new term of that office, which will expire June 30, 2033. However, H. 4300, which would raise the judicial retirement age to 74, has reached the procedural step where, if the General Assembly reconvenes, it could become law this session. If it were to be enacted this year, Judge McFaddin would not be required to retire on or before December 31, 2026, and would be eligible to run for reelection to serve a new term of this office.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable Ryan K. Griffin, Judge of the Circuit Court, Third Judicial Circuit, Seat 4, will expire June 30, 2027.

A vacancy will exist in the office currently held by the Honorable Paul M. Burch, Judge of the Circuit Court, Fourth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1, upon his retirement on or before December 31, 2026. The successor will serve the remainder of the unexpired term of that office, which will expire

June 30, 2028. However, H. 4300, which would raise the judicial retirement age to 74, has reached the procedural step where, if the General Assembly reconvenes, it could become law this session. The Commission will accept applications for this office conditionally; because, if this bill becomes law this session, the vacancy will not exist, and the notice of this vacancy is voided.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable Robert E. Hood, Judge of the Circuit Court, Fifth Judicial Circuit, Seat 3, will expire June 30, 2027.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable T. William “Billy” McGee III, Judge of the Circuit Court, Fifth Judicial Circuit, Seat 4, will expire June 30, 2027.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable Jocelyn Newman, Judge of the Circuit Court, Fifth Judicial Circuit, Seat 5, will expire June 30, 2027.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable Jane H. Merrill, Judge of the Circuit Court, Eighth Judicial Circuit, Seat 3, will expire June 30, 2027.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable Roger M. Young, Judge of the Circuit Court, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Seat 3, will expire June 30, 2027.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable Jennifer B. McCoy, Judge of the Circuit Court, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Seat 5, will expire June 30, 2027.

A vacancy exists in the office formerly held by the Honorable Michael Nettles, Judge of the Circuit Court, Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1, upon his retirement. The successor will serve the remainder of the unexpired term of that office, which expires June 30, 2030.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable William H. Seals Jr., Judge of the Circuit Court, Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Seat 2, will expire June 30, 2027.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable G.D. Morgan Jr., Judge of the Circuit Court, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 3, will expire June 30, 2027.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable William C. McMaster III, Judge of the Circuit Court, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 5, will expire June 30, 2027.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable Carmen T. Mullen, Judge of the Circuit Court, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 2, will expire June 30, 2027.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable Benjamin H. Culbertson, Judge of the Circuit Court, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 2, will expire June 30, 2027.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable Patrick C. Fant III, Judge of the Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat 1, will expire June 30, 2027.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable J. Mark Hayes II, Judge of the Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat 2, will expire June 30, 2027.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable Samuel L. Johnson, Judge of the Administrative Law Court, Seat 2, will expire June 30, 2027.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable James J. Wegmann, Master-in-Equity for Beaufort County, will expire June 30, 2027.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable Martin R. Banks, Master-in-Equity for Calhoun County, will expire August 14, 2027.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable Charles B. Simmons Jr., Master-in-Equity for Greenville County, will expire December 31, 2027.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable Alan Clemmons, Master-in-Equity for Horry County, will expire July 31, 2027.

A vacancy will exist in the office currently held by the Honorable James B. Jackson Jr., Master-in-Equity for Orangeburg County. The successor will serve a new term of that office, which will begin on August 15, 2027, and which will expire on August 14, 2033.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable Stephanie N. Lawrence, Master-in-Equity for Richland County, will expire April 30, 2027.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable Shannon Phillips, Master-in-Equity for Spartanburg County, will expire June 30, 2027.

The term of office currently held by the Honorable Teasa Kay Weaver, Master-in-Equity for York County, will expire June 30, 2027.

To receive application materials, a prospective candidate, including judges seeking re-election, must notify the Commission in writing of his or her intent to apply. Note that an email will suffice for written notification.

All completed application packets must be received by the Commission **by 12:00 pm, noon, on Monday, August 24, 2026**. For information on previous screenings and other JMSC-related information, please go to:

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/JudicialMeritPage/JMSCMainPage.php>

Correspondence and questions should be directed to the Judicial Merit Selection Commission as follows:

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