

Judicial Merit Selection Commission

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Rep. Leonidas E. “Leon” Stavrinakis
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Lanneau Wm. Lambert Jr.
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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MEDIA RELEASE

August 24, 2026

The Public Hearings for the Judicial Merit Selection Commission have been scheduled to begin Monday, November 16, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., regarding the qualifications of the following candidates for judicial positions:

Supreme Court

Seat 2

The Honorable Ralph K. Anderson III, Columbia, SC
The Honorable John D. Geathers, Georgetown, SC
The Honorable Eugene Cannon Griffith Jr., Prosperity, SC
The Honorable Blake A. Hewitt, Conway, SC
The Honorable Maite Murphy, North Charleston, SC

Court of Appeals

Seat 5

The Honorable H. Bruce Williams, Columbia, SC

Seat 6

The Honorable Aphrodite Konduros, Greenville, SC

Circuit Court

3rd Judicial Circuit, Seat 3

The Honorable George M. McFaddin Jr., Gable, SC

3rd Judicial Circuit, Seat 4

The Honorable R. Kirk Griffin, Sumter, SC

5th Judicial Circuit, Seat 3

The Honorable Robert E. Hood, Columbia, SC

5th Judicial Circuit, Seat 4

The Honorable T. William “Billy” McGee III, Columbia, SC

5th Judicial Circuit, Seat 5

The Honorable Jocelyn Newman, Columbia, SC

8th Judicial Circuit, Seat 3

The Honorable Jane H. Merrill, Greenwood, SC

9th Judicial Circuit, Seat 3

The Honorable Roger M. Young Sr., North Charleston, SC

9th Judicial Circuit, Seat 5	The Honorable Jennifer B. McCoy, Charleston, SC
12th Judicial Circuit, Seat 1	The Honorable FitzLee H. McEachin, Florence, SC
12th Judicial Circuit, Seat 2	The Honorable William Henry Seals Jr., Marion, SC
13th Judicial Circuit, Seat 3	The Honorable G.D. Morgan Jr., Greenville, SC
13th Judicial Circuit, Seat 5	The Honorable William C. McMaster III, Greenville, SC
14th Judicial Circuit, Seat 2	The Honorable Carmen Tevis Mullen, Hilton Head, SC
15th Judicial Circuit, Seat 2	The Honorable Ben Culbertson, Georgetown, SC
At-Large, Seat 1	The Honorable Patrick Cleburne Fant III, Greenville, SC
At-Large, Seat 2	The Honorable James Mark Hayes II, Spartanburg, SC
<u>Administrative Law Court</u> Seat 2	The Honorable Samuel L. Johnson, West Columbia, SC
<u>Master-in-Equity</u> Beaufort County	The Honorable James J. Wegmann, Beaufort, SC
Calhoun County	The Honorable Martin R. Banks, Cayce, SC
Greenville County	The Honorable Charles B. Simmons Jr., Greenville, SC
Horry County	The Honorable Alan D. Clemmons, Myrtle Beach, SC
Orangeburg County	The Honorable Russell A. Blanchard IV, Orangeburg, SC The Honorable Edgar W. Dickson, Orangeburg, SC
Richland County	The Honorable Stephanie N. Lawrence, Columbia, SC
Spartanburg County	The Honorable Shannon M. Phillips, Inman, SC
York County	The Honorable Teasa Kay Weaver, York, SC
<u>Active Retired</u> Circuit Court	The Honorable J. Cordell Maddox Jr., Anderson, SC The Honorable Edward W. Miller, Greenville, SC The Honorable Clifton Newman, Columbia, SC
Family Court	The Honorable Arthur Eugene “Gene” Morehead III, Florence, SC

Persons desiring to testify at public hearings shall furnish written notarized statements of proposed testimony, in accordance with the Procedural Rules of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission. These statements must be received by **Noon, Monday, November 2, 2026**. The Commission has witness affidavit forms that must be used

for proposed testimony. Statements should be mailed or delivered to the Judicial Merit Selection Commission as follows:

Erin B. Crawford, Chief Counsel
104 Gressette Building
Post Office Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202

All testimony, including documents furnished to the Commission, must be submitted under oath, and failure to appear will result in a dismissal of the related complaint. Persons knowingly giving false information, either orally or in writing, shall be subject to penalty.

For further information about the Judicial Merit Selection Commission and the judicial screening process, the website is available at:

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

Questions concerning the hearing and procedures should be directed to the Commission at (803) 212-6623.