Judicial Merit Selection Commission

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The Honorable Joseph Monroe Strickland

Erin B. Crawford, Chief Counsel
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MEDIA RELEASE

November 19, 2026

The Judicial Merit Selection Commission held public hearings during the week of November 16-18, and determined qualifications of the following judicial candidates:

Supreme Court		
Seat 2	**The Honorable Ralph K. Anderson III,** Columbia, SC	Qualified and Nominated
	The Honorable John D. Geathers, Georgetown, SC	Qualified and Nominated
	The Honorable Eugene Cannon Griffith Jr., Prosperity, SC	Qualified and Nominated
	The Honorable Blake A. Hewitt, Conway, SC	Qualified and Nominated
	The Honorable Maite Murphy, North Charleston, SC	Qualified and Nominated
Court of Appeals		
Seat 5	**The Honorable H. Bruce Williams,** Columbia, SC	Qualified and Nominated
Seat 6	**The Honorable Aphrodite Konduros**, Greenville, SC	Qualified and Nominated
Circuit Court		
3rd Judicial Circuit, Seat 3	**The Honorable George M. McFaddin Jr.,** Gable, SC	Qualified and Nominated
3rd Judicial Circuit, Seat 4	**The Honorable R. Kirk Griffin**, Sumter, SC	Qualified and Nominated
5th Judicial Circuit, Seat 3	**The Honorable Robert E. Hood,** Columbia, SC	Qualified and Nominated

5th Judicial Circuit, Seat 4	**The Honorable T. William "Billy" McGee III**, Columbia, SC	Qualified and Nominated
5th Judicial Circuit, Seat 5	**The Honorable Jocelyn Newman**, Columbia, SC	Qualified and Nominated
5th Judicial Circuit, Seat 6	**Derek A. Shoemake,** Elgin, SC	Qualified and Nominated
8th Judicial Circuit, Seat 3	**The Honorable Jane H. Merrill,** Greenwood, SC	Qualified and Nominated
9th Judicial Circuit, Seat 3	**The Honorable Roger M. Young Sr.**, North Charleston, SC	Qualified and Nominated
9th Judicial Circuit, Seat 5	**The Honorable Jennifer B. McCoy**, Charleston, SC	Qualified and Nominated
10th Judicial Circuit, Seat 3	**The Honorable Andrew K. Holliday,** Salem, SC	Not Qualified
	Ashley A. McMahan, Tamassee, SC	Not Qualified
	The Honorable Lindsey Satterfield Simmons, Seneca, SC	Not Qualified
	Blair L. Stoudemire, Walhalla, SC	Not Qualified
12th Judicial Circuit, Seat 1	**The Honorable FitzLee H. McEachin**, Florence, SC	Qualified and Nominated
12th Judicial Circuit, Seat 2	**The Honorable William Henry Seals Jr.,** Marion, SC	Qualified and Nominated
13th Judicial Circuit, Seat 3	**The Honorable G.D. Morgan Jr.**, Greenville, SC	Qualified and Nominated
13th Judicial Circuit, Seat 5	**The Honorable William C. McMaster III**, Greenville, SC	Qualified and Nominated
14th Judicial Circuit, Seat 2	**The Honorable Carmen Tevis Mullen**, Hilton Head, SC	Qualified and Nominated
15th Judicial Circuit, Seat 2	**The Honorable Ben Culbertson**, Georgetown, SC	Qualified and Nominated
At-Large, Seat 1	**The Honorable Patrick Cleburne Fant III**, Greenville, SC	Qualified and Nominated

At-Large, Seat 2	**The Honorable James Mark Hayes II**, Spartanburg, SC	Qualified and Nominated
Administrative Law Court		
Seat 2	**The Honorable Samuel L. Johnson,** West Columbia, SC	Qualified and Nominated
Master-in-Equity		
Beaufort County	**The Honorable James J. Wegmann,** Beaufort, SC	Qualified
Calhoun County	**The Honorable Martin R. Banks**, Cayce, SC	Qualified
Greenville County	**The Honorable Charles B. Simmons Jr**., Greenville, SC	Qualified
Horry County	**The Honorable Alan D. Clemmons**, Myrtle Beach, SC	Not Qualified
Orangeburg County	**The Honorable Russell A. Blanchard IV**, Orangeburg, SC	Qualified
	The Honorable Edgar W. Dickson, Orangeburg, SC	Qualified
Richland County	**The Honorable Stephanie N. Lawrence**, Columbia, SC	Qualified
Spartanburg County	**The Honorable Shannon M. Phillips**, Inman, SC	Qualified
York County	**The Honorable Teasa Kay Weaver**, York, SC	Qualified
Active Retired		
Circuit Court	**The Honorable J. Cordell Maddox Jr.**, Anderson, SC	Qualified
	The Honorable Edward W. Miller, Greenville, SC	Qualified
	The Honorable Clifton Newman, Columbia, SC	Qualified
Family Court	**The Honorable Arthur Eugene "Gene" Morehead III,** Florence, SC	Qualified

As a reminder, the record remains open until the final report is issued at 12:00 Noon, Monday, February 8, 2027. Accordingly, judicial candidates are not free to seek or accept commitments until that time.

The election is currently scheduled for Noon on Wednesday, March 3, 2027.

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.