

JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION

How does one file a complaint against a judge or judicial candidate?

The answer to this question depends on where the judge or the candidate is in the election process. Is the judge currently being screened or in the middle of his or her judicial term?

Judge or judicial candidate currently being screened:

If the Judicial Merit Selection Commission (JMSC) is currently screening the candidate, then the JMSC is the correct place to file an affidavit. Complaints must be submitted with all relevant documents in hard copy before the deadline. Note: Our office does not provide notary services.

LAST DAY to file a complaint:

When is the **LAST DATE** to file a complaint against a judge or judicial candidate currently undergoing the screening process before JMSC? **Affidavits and supporting documents must be received no later than:**

12:00 p.m. Noon, Monday, November 2, 2026

Judge or judicial candidate NOT currently being screened:

If the complaint is against a sitting judge not currently being screened, then the complaint should be filed with the Commission on Judicial Conduct. Unless a judge runs for another judgeship, the JMSC would screen a judge at the end of his or her judicial term at the time the judge runs for re-election.

Commission on Judicial Conduct

1220 Senate Street, Suite 111
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 734-1965

Complaints against other elected officials:

Complaints against other officials appointed or elected by the General Assembly should be filed with the State Ethics Commission.

State Ethics Commission

201 Executive Center Drive #150
Columbia, SC 29210
(803) 253-4192