



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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Application period opens for vacancies on judicial nominating commissions *Forty-five positions to be filled*

DENVER – On behalf of Gov. John Hickenlooper, Attorney General John Suthers and Chief Justice Michael L. Bender, the Colorado Judicial Branch announced today the opening of the application period for 45 vacancies on judicial nominating commissions across the state of Colorado.

Some positions are open now; the majority of vacancies will occur when current commissioners' six-year terms end Dec. 31. All commissioners serve as volunteers. Applications will be accepted until further notice.

Thirty-two vacancies must be filled by non-attorneys selected by the governor. Thirteen vacancies must be filled by attorneys selected by joint action of the Governor, Attorney General and Chief Justice. Vacancies will occur in 20 judicial district nominating commissions.

Each judicial district in Colorado has a nominating commission comprising three attorneys and four non-attorneys who select nominees for appointment to county and district judgeships. The Supreme Court Nominating Commission is made up of seven attorneys and seven non-attorneys and one non-attorney at-large member. Each of Colorado's seven Congressional Districts is represented by one attorney and one non-attorney on the Supreme Court Nominating Commission, which selects nominees for positions on the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

Application forms for vacancies on the various commissions may be found on the Colorado Judicial Department web site at

http://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/Supreme_Court/Nominating.cfm. Completed application forms may be mailed to Romaine Pacheco, Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions, 136

State Capitol Bldg., Denver, CO 80203. They also may be faxed to 303-866-6368 or sent by e-mail to boards@state.co.us.

Article VI, Section 24 of the Colorado Constitution requires that for any nominating commission, “no more than one-half of the commission members plus one, exclusive of the Supreme Court justice serving as ex officio chair, shall be members of the same political party.” The Constitution also requires that at least one commissioner reside in each of the counties of the district. Applicants must reside in the judicial district – or, for the Supreme Court Nominating Commission, the Congressional District – to which they are applying for appointment.

Here is a list of upcoming nominating commission attorney vacancies along with any applicable residency and political-affiliation requirements:

- 1st Judicial District: One vacancy.
- 2nd Judicial District: One vacancy; appointee cannot be a registered Democrat.
- 4th Judicial District: One vacancy. This commission also will have a non-attorney vacancy; only one position may be filled by a registered Democrat.
- 5th Judicial District: One vacancy. This commission also will have two non-attorney vacancies; one of the positions must be filled by a resident of Eagle County, one other by resident of Lake County.
- 6th Judicial District: One vacancy. This commission also will have one non-attorney vacancy. One of the positions must be filled by a resident of San Juan County.
- 7th Judicial District: One vacancy. Appointee must reside in Ouray County.
- 9th Judicial District: One vacancy. This commission also will have one attorney vacancy. At least one appointee must be a resident of Rio Blanco County and one a resident of Pitkin County.
- 13th Judicial District: One vacancy. This commission also will have three non-attorney vacancies. One appointee must be a resident of Yuma County, one a resident of Phillips County, one a resident of Sedgwick County and one a resident of Logan County.
- 14th Judicial District: Two vacancies.
- 16th Judicial District: One vacancy. Appointee must not be a registered Democrat.
- 19th Judicial District: One vacancy.
- Supreme Court: One vacancy. Appointee must be a resident of the 5th Congressional District.

Here is a list of non-attorney vacancies, along with any applicable residency and political-affiliation requirements:

- 2nd Judicial District: Two vacancies. Neither may be filled by a registered Democrat.
- 3rd Judicial District: Two vacancies.
- 4th Judicial District: One vacancy. This commission also will have an attorney vacancy; only one position may be filled by a registered Democrat.
- 5th Judicial District: Two vacancies. This commission also will have one attorney vacancy. One of the positions must be filled by a resident of Eagle County, one other by resident of Lake County.
- 6th Judicial District: One vacancy. This commission also will have one attorney vacancy. One of the positions must be filled by a resident of San Juan County.
- 8th Judicial District: One vacancy. Appointee must not be a registered Democrat.
- 9th Judicial District: Three vacancies. This commission also will have one attorney vacancy. At least one appointee must be a resident of Rio Blanco County and one a resident of Pitkin County.
- 10th Judicial District: Two vacancies. Neither may be filled by a registered Democrat.
- 11th Judicial District: One vacancy.
- 12th Judicial District: Two vacancies. One appointee must be a resident of Mineral County and one a resident of Costilla County.
- 13th Judicial District: Three vacancies. This commission also will have one attorney vacancy. One appointee must be a resident of Yuma County, one a resident of Phillips County, one a resident of Sedgwick County and one a resident of Logan County.
- 14th Judicial District: Two vacancies.
- 15th Judicial District: Two vacancies.
- 19th Judicial District: One vacancy.
- 20th Judicial District: One vacancy. Appointee must not be a registered Democrat.
- 21st Judicial District: Two vacancies. Neither appointee may be a registered Democrat.
- 22nd Judicial District: One vacancy. Appointee must be a resident of Dolores County.

- Supreme Court: Two vacancies. One appointee must be a resident of the 2nd Congressional District, the other must be a resident of the 7th Congressional District.