



News Release

Colorado Judicial Branch

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 24, 2025

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3rd Judicial District announces Las Animas County Court vacancy ***Commission sets date to select nominees***

The 3rd Judicial District Nominating Commission will meet on January 2, 2026, at the Las Animas County Courthouse, 200 E. 1st St., Ste. 304, Trinidad, CO 81082, to interview and select nominees for appointment by the governor to the office of county judge for Las Animas County. The vacancy will be created by the resignation of the Honorable John D. Mochel. The vacancy will occur on February 5, 2026.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a qualified elector of Las Animas County at the time of investiture and have graduated high school or attained the equivalent of a high school education as indicated by the Department of Education, based upon the record made on the General Education Development test. The annual salary for this position is \$156,001, and it is an 80 percent position. The initial term of office of a county judge is a provisional term of two years; thereafter, the incumbent county judge, if approved by the voters, has a term of four years.

Application forms are available from the office of the ex officio chair of the nominating commission, Justice Richard Gabriel, 2 E. 14th Ave., Denver, CO 80203, and the office

of the court executive, Bob Kreiman, 719-846-3316 at Las Animas County Courthouse, 200 E. 1st St., Ste. 304, Trinidad, CO 81082. Applications are also available on the court's home page at coloradojudicial.gov/careers/judge-opportunities.

The completed application must be emailed to the address listed in the instructions below by December 12, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. Late applications will not be considered. Any person wishing to suggest a candidate to fill the vacancy may do so by letter to be submitted to any member of the nominating commission, with a copy to the ex officio chair, no later than December 5, 2025, by 4 p.m.

The members of the nominating commission for the 3rd Judicial District are: Shannon Shiveley of Trinchera; Mary White of La Veta; and Elizabeth Kelly, Elizabeth Ford, Sarah Sloane, Sisto Mazza and Cy Michaels, all of Trinidad.

Editor's Note: Contact information for the nominating commission members:

- Elizabeth Kelly, ekellyfc@gmail.com
- Shannon Shiveley, shannon.shiveley@trinidadstate.edu
- Elizabeth Ford, eford@3rdjudicial.org
- Sarah Sloane, sarah.sloane@trinidadstate.edu
- Mary White, lavetalaw@gmail.com
- Sisto Mazza, sjmazza@ria.net
- Cy Michaels, cymichaels@rocketmail.com

**JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION
APPLICATION FOR COLORADO STATE COURT JUDGESHIP
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

Instructions

1. The application form for a Colorado state court judgeship can be found on the Judicial Branch website at <https://www.courts.state.co.us/Careers/Judge.cfm>. Please be complete and thorough in answering the questions. If an answer to any question requires more space than provided, attach a separate page for the question(s). Do not change the margins or font size on the application.
2. Your application materials should be prepared in the following manner:

The application and any attachments must be submitted as a single PDF file with reference letters attached last. The application should be in text searchable format.

You may submit letters of reference from not less than three and no more than five individuals who are able to comment upon your qualifications for a judicial position.

It is preferred that reference letters are included with your application submission. However, if they are submitted directly by the author, they must be submitted by email as described below in paragraph 3. All letters of reference are due by the filing deadline listed in paragraph 4.

3. Your application materials compiled as outlined above should be sent via email with **your name and 3rd JD Las Animas County in the subject line** with your materials attached as outlined above no later than **4 p.m. on December 12th, 2025** to the following email address:

judicial.applicants@judicial.state.co.us

You should receive an automatic response to your email submission. If you do not, please call the supreme court at the telephone number listed below. Please add this email address to your contacts so that email does not get filtered into your spam.

4. Your application must be received no later than: **4 p.m. on December 12th, 2025.**

Call the Colorado Supreme Court Clerk's office with questions: 720-625-5150.

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