



# News Release

## Colorado Judicial Branch

Monica M. Márquez, Chief Justice  
Steven Vasconcellos, State Court Administrator

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 20, 2026**

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### **18th Judicial District announces Arapahoe County Court vacancy** ***Commission sets date to select nominees***

The 18th Judicial District Nominating Commission will meet on June 9, 2026, at the Arapahoe County Justice Center at 7325 S. Potomac Street, Centennial, CO 80112 to interview and select nominees for appointment by the governor to the office of county judge for Arapahoe County. The vacancy will be created by the appointment of the Honorable A. Danielle Touart to the 18th Judicial District Court bench. The vacancy will occur on July 1, 2026.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a qualified elector of Arapahoe County at the time of investiture and must have been admitted to the practice of law in Colorado. The current annual salary for this position is \$195,001.25. 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 Susan Blanco, at 2 E. 14th Ave, Denver, CO 80203; and the office of the court executive, Jenni Turnidge, and Audrey Smith, deputy court executive, 303-645-6600.

Applications are also available on the court's home page at

<http://www.courts.state.co.us/Careers/Judge.cfm>

The completed application must be emailed to the address listed in the instructions below by 4 p.m. on May 29, 2026. 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 May 29, 2026, by 4 p.m.

The members of the nominating commission for the 18th Judicial District are:

M. Michael Cooke of Englewood; Emily Valdez and Hope Szypulski of Centennial; and Eric Nesbitt, Becky Hogan, MariaJose Delgado and Thomas Hernandez, all of Aurora.

Contact information for the nominating commission members:

- Eric Nesbitt, [eric@nesbittlawoffices.com](mailto:eric@nesbittlawoffices.com)
- Emily Valdez, [emily.valdez@coloradodefenders.us](mailto:emily.valdez@coloradodefenders.us)
- Becky Hogan, [bhedgeconsulting@yahoo.com](mailto:bhedgeconsulting@yahoo.com)
- M. Michael Cooke, [m.michael.cooke@gmail.com](mailto:m.michael.cooke@gmail.com)
- MariaJose Delgado, [mj@mjdelgadolaw.com](mailto:mj@mjdelgadolaw.com)
- Thomas Hernandez, [thomas@triberecoveryhomes.com](mailto:thomas@triberecoveryhomes.com)
- Hope Szypulski, [hszypuls@msudenver.edu](mailto:hszypuls@msudenver.edu)

**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 [coloradojudicial.gov/careers/judge-opportunities](http://coloradojudicial.gov/careers/judge-opportunities). 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 18th JD – Arapahoe County Court in the subject line** with your materials attached as outlined above no later than 4 p.m. on May 29, 2026 to the following email address:

[judicial.applicants@judicial.state.co.us](mailto: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 **May 29, 2026.**
5. Call the Colorado Supreme Court Clerk's office with questions: 720-625-5150

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