



News Release

Colorado Judicial Branch

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 29, 2026

Amy Woodward, Media Coordinator
720-550-1194
Amy.Woodward@judicial.state.co.us

13th Judicial District announces Kit Carson County Court vacancy ***Commission sets date to select nominees***

The 13th Judicial District Nominating Commission will meet on July 28, 2026, at the Kit Carson County Combined Court, 1650 Donelan Avenue, Suite 301, Burlington, CO 80807, to interview and select nominees for appointment by the governor to the office of county judge for Kit Carson County. The vacancy will be created by the retirement of the Honorable Michael K. Grinnan. The vacancy will occur on September 1, 2026.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a qualified elector of Kit Carson County at the time of investiture and have graduated from 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 \$107,250.55, and it is a 55 percent part-time position. The initial term of office for a county judge is a provisional two-year term; thereafter, the incumbent county judge, if approved by the voters, serves a four-year term.

Application forms are available from the office of the ex officio chair of the nominating commission, Justice Maria Berkenkotter, 2 E. 14th Ave., Denver, CO 80203, and the office of the court executive, Jennifer Elliott, 970-521-0609.

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 no later than 4 p.m. on July 15, 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 July 8, 2026, by 4 p.m.

The members of the nominating commission for the 13th Judicial District are:

Curtis Fix of Wray; Kelly Lowery of Sterling; Andrew McClary of Fort Morgan; Soraya Taylor of Stratton; and Jerold Brandt of Holyoke.

Contact information for nominating commission members:

- Curtis Fix, curt@yumacountyabstract.com
- Kelly Lowery, kelly@wlflawfirm.com
- Andrew McClary, andy@mcclarylaw.com
- Soraya Taylor, sorayalfrank@gmail.com
- Jerold Brandt, drbrandt@pctelcom.coop

**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.

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 13th JD – Kit Carson County Court** in the subject line with your materials attached as outlined above **no later than 4 p.m. on July 15, 2026**, 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 July 15, 2026.**
5. Call the Colorado Supreme Court Clerk's office with questions: 720-625-5150

###