



News Release

Colorado Judicial Branch

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Steven Vasconcellos, State Court Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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7th Judicial District announces Gunnison County Court vacancy

Commission sets date to select nominees

The 7th Judicial District Nominating Commission will meet on Oct. 7, 2026 at **Gunnison County Combined Court, 200 E. Virginia Avenue, Gunnison CO 81230** to interview and select nominees for appointment by the governor to the office of county judge for Gunnison County. The vacancy will be created by the resignation of the Honorable Judge Ashley Burgemeister. The vacancy will occur on Oct. 15, 2026.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a qualified elector of Gunnison 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 Educational Development test. The annual salary for this position is \$117,000.75, and it is a 60% 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 William Hood, 2 E. 14th Ave., Denver, CO 80203, and the office of the court executive Leslie German, Montrose County Combined Courts, 1200 N. Grand Ave., Montrose, CO 81401. Applications also are available on the court's home page at coloradojudicial.gov/careers/judge-opportunities.

The completed application must be e-mailed to the address listed in the instructions below no later

than 4 p.m. on Sept. 14, 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 4 p.m. on Sept. 8, 2026.

The members of the nominating commission for the 7th Judicial District are: Dan Hotenpiller and Kori Keil Zapletal of Montrose; Paul Major of Telluride; David Inouye of Hotchkiss; Martha Levine of Lake City; and Sally Hays of Gunnison.

Contact information for the nominating commission members:

- Dan Hotenpiller, dkhotenpiller@gmail.com
- Kori Keil Zapletal, kori.zapletal@coloradodefenders.us
- Paul Major, paul@ruralhomes.co
- David Inouye, dwinouye@gmail.com
- Martha Levine, marthal@lakecityschool.org
- Sally Hays, sally.hays@gmail.com

For questions about this announcement, please contact the Colorado Supreme Court Clerk's Office at 720-625-5150.

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**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 7th JD – Gunnison County Court in the subject line** with your materials attached as outlined above **no later than 4 p.m. on September 14, 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 September 14, 2026.**
5. Call the Colorado Supreme Court Clerk's office with questions: 720-625-5150