

## NEWS RELEASE

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### JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION ANNOUNCES VACANCY IN CIRCUIT COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Wyoming Supreme Court Chief Justice Kate M. Fox, who acts as Chairman of the Judicial Nominating Commission, announced today a vacancy for a Circuit Court Judge in the Eighth Judicial District – Goshen County. The judicial vacancy will occur due to the appointment of Judge Nathaniel S. Hibben to the First Judicial District Court, effective May 10, 2025. The position will be filled July 9, 2025.

The Judicial Nominating Commission will accept expressions of interest from qualified persons to fill the vacancy through Friday, April 18, 2025. The expression of interest form can be obtained from the Supreme Court's website, <http://www.courts.state.wy.us/Administration/Careers>. The completed form ***must be received*** in the office of Chief Justice Fox no later than **5:00 p.m., on Friday, April 18, 2025**. Please do not submit letters of recommendation, as the Commission will not consider them, but will instead only review documents specifically required by the expression of interest.

State judges in Wyoming are selected and retained through the merit selection process that our citizens voted to include in the Wyoming Constitution in 1972. The Judicial Nominating Commission consists of three lawyers and three non-lawyers. Serving on the Judicial Nominating Commission are Chief Justice Fox, three lawyers elected by the Wyoming State Bar: Devon O'Connell of Laramie, Mandy Good of Cheyenne, and Clint Langer of Sheridan; and three non-lawyers appointed by the Governor: Lisa Anderson of Shell, Rick Fagnant of Lander, and Rocco O'Neill of Evanston. The Chief Justice serves as Chair, and only votes in the event of a tie.

The Commission members are looking for qualifications like:

- Intelligence
- Ethics
- Judicial temperament
- Courage and integrity
- Experience and education
- Ability to communicate
- Civic and professional responsibility
- Desire to continue learning

For every State judicial opening, the Commission reviews extensive application materials, then interviews the best candidates, and selects the top three to send to the Governor. The Governor has 30 days from receipt of the Commission's three names in which to select one of them.

The final piece of the Merit Selection process allows the voters to have their say. Each judge or justice must stand for retention in the general election after one full year of his or her appointment, and thereafter on a regular schedule.

Wyoming's merit selection process selects judges on the basis of their qualifications, men and women who are committed to upholding Wyoming's laws and constitution.

Governor Gordon will appoint the Eighth Judicial Circuit Court Judge – Goshen County from a list of three names submitted to him by the Judicial Nominating Commission.

The salary for the Circuit Court judge position is \$153,700 per year, with State insurance benefits, Wyoming Retirement 457 plan <https://retirement.wyo.gov/en/DC>, and a generous judicial pension. Wyo. Stat. § 9-3-707.

TO SERVE AS A CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE, ONE MUST BE A QUALIFIED ELECTOR OF THE STATE, AND AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE LAW IN WYOMING.