

SIXTEENTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL COMMISSION
Instructions to Applicants for Judges Burnett and Youngs Vacancies
Sixteenth Judicial Circuit, Jackson County

1. All applicants should review Supreme Court Rules 10.28 and 10.31 pertaining to the judicial selection process.
2. Download the application from the Missouri Courts website (www.courts.mo.gov) listed in the “Judicial Vacancies” section among the blue boxes at the bottom of the home page. You may enter your answers directly onto the downloaded form, creating sufficient space for your answers.
3. Complete and mail or deliver the original and one copy of the application, flat, unfolded and unbound (paper clips or binder clips are permissible), to The Honorable Anthony Rex Gabbert at the address listed below. **Your application must be received by 4 p.m. Wednesday, October 15, 2025**, to be considered by the commission, but earlier submission is ***strongly*** encouraged.
4. Attach your photograph to the original and one copy of the application to assist the Commission in identifying applicants. Glossy or matte professional prints are preferred over photographs printed by an inkjet or laser printer.
5. You must also ***e-mail*** your application, **saved as a Microsoft Word or PDF document only**, to the commission at 16thCircuit.JudicialVacancy@courts.mo.gov no later than 4 p.m. Wednesday, October 15, 2025. Again, earlier submission is ***strongly*** encouraged. You are not required to e-mail your photograph because some formats are not compatible.
6. List no more than five persons as references who can attest to your personal and professional qualifications for the position of circuit judge. Do not include as a reference any active judge of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit.

As to each of the five references, **please provide name, title, mailing address, telephone and e-mail address**. *Please note* it is your responsibility to contact these references and to ensure they send the requested letters in a timely manner. Please provide each reference with a copy of the “Guidelines for References” and direct them to send their letters of reference **via email** to

16thCircuit.JudicialVacancy@courts.mo.gov, saved as Microsoft Word or PDF documents, in accordance with the Guidelines. If the references do not have access to email, they may send the reference letter to the Sixteenth Circuit Judicial Commission, 1300 Oak Street, Kansas City, MO 64106. **All reference letters must be received by 4 p.m. Wednesday, October 15, 2025**, to be considered by the commission.

7. Public interviews will be scheduled on Monday, November 3, 2025, and, if necessary, Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at the Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District, 1300 Oak Street, Kansas City, Missouri. You will be notified of the specific date and time for your interview at least one week in advance. The interviews will be open to the public; however, applicants should not attend the interviews of other applicants.

The commission will first select a panel of three nominees for the Division 7 vacancy.

Upon receipt of the nominations, the governor of the State of Missouri will have 60 days to appoint one of the three nominees as circuit judge in Division 7 of the Jackson County circuit court.

Upon notification of the governor's appointment of a nominee as circuit judge in Division 7, the commission will select a second panel of three nominees as circuit judge in Division 6.

Upon receipt of the nominations, the governor of the State of Missouri will have 60 days to appoint one of the three nominees as circuit judge in Division 6 of the Jackson County circuit court.

8. Individual commissioners may be willing to meet informally with applicants prior to the public interviews. Applicants should contact commissioners directly to inquire.
9. Members of the Sixteenth Circuit Judicial Commission are:

The Honorable Anthony Rex Gabbert
Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District
Rex.gabbert@courts.mo.gov
(816) 889-3605

Ms. Jill Kanatzar
Dollar, Burns, Becker & Hershewe
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Mr. Tom Porto
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Mr. Doug Cowan
cowand@cslcares.org
(816) 912-4484

SUPREME COURT RULE 10.28
PUBLICITY – INFORMATION FOR THE COMMISSION – INTERVIEWS

- (a) When a vacancy occurs or when it is known that a vacancy will occur at a definite future date, the chair shall publicize the same and solicit the submission of names of individuals qualified for such vacancy. When the commission announces that it is accepting applications, it shall encourage members of the public to nominate well qualified candidates for the commission to consider. Prior to the meeting of the commission, an appropriate questionnaire shall be sent to each person whose name is proposed, to be completed and returned to the chair of the commission. Copies of the completed questionnaire shall be provided to each commission member prior to the meeting called for the commission to take formal action in making its nominations.
- (b) Except as provided in Rule 10.28(d), no publicity shall be given by the commission of the names of persons under consideration for nomination. The commission may submit the names of applicants to others on a confidential basis for the purpose of securing appropriate background information to the extent authorized by the applicants' signed written waivers.
- (c) Any meeting called for the purpose of taking formal action in making nominations necessarily involves discussion of applicants' personal information and shall, therefore, be a closed meeting. All matters discussed at said meeting, except the matters contained in the certificate of nomination, shall be kept confidential.
- (d) Prior to any meeting called to take formal action in making nominations, the commission will select from all the applicants those it will interview. Each of the selected applicants shall be interviewed by the commission as a whole, and those interviews shall be public. The names of those to be interviewed, the time and place of the public interviews, and information relating to the number and characteristics of all applicants shall be released prior to the public interviews. Other than the names of the persons it selects to interview, the commission shall not release any personally identifiable information about any person not included in the certificate of nomination.
- (e) Within 72 hours of submitting the certificate of nomination, the commission shall transmit to the governor the applications and other information submitted to the commission pertaining to the persons contained in the certificate of nomination. Within the same time, the commission shall make public a copy of the applications submitted by the persons included in the certificate of nomination, but with personal or confidential information redacted.

SUPREME COURT RULE 10.31
CANDIDACY AND SELECTION OF JUDGES

The conduct of candidates for any judicial office to be filled pursuant to article V, sections 25(a)-(g) of the Missouri Constitution shall be governed by and be in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct and the Canons of Judicial Ethics. In particular, the aspiration of lawyers for judicial position should be governed by an impartial estimate of their ability to add honor to the office and not by a desire for the distinction the position may bring to themselves. If a judge, or a person in an office of a judicial nature, becomes a candidate, he or she should refrain from all conduct that might tend to arouse reasonable suspicion that he or she is using the power or prestige of his or her judicial position to promote his or her candidacy. He or she should not permit others to do anything in behalf of his or her candidacy that would reasonably lead to such suspicion.

It is the duty of The Missouri Bar to endeavor to prevent partisan considerations, political or otherwise, from outweighing judicial fitness in the selection of judges. The Missouri Bar should protest earnestly and actively against the selection of those who are unsuitable for the bench.