



alaska judicial council

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Press Release

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For immediate release
November 7, 2025

Announcing Nominees *Anchorage District Court & Alaska Court of Appeals*

The Alaska Judicial Council met in Anchorage on November 5-7, 2025, to interview applicants for vacancies on the Anchorage District Court and Alaska Court of Appeals.

The Alaska Judicial Council voted on November 5 to nominate **RuthAnne Beach and Patricia L. Haines** as the most qualified applicants to fill the Alaska Court of Appeals vacancy. Following its meeting on November 6 and 7, the Council voted to nominate **John Haley, Eric Salinger, and Matt Widmer** as the most qualified applicants to fill the Anchorage District Court vacancy. The governor has 45 days in which to appoint from among these nominees to fill the positions.

The Judicial Council is required to nominate two or more of the most qualified applicants applying for a judicial vacancy. (The framers of our Constitution referred to this standard as the "best available timber.")

The Council is a citizens' commission created by the Alaska Constitution composed of three attorneys, three non-attorneys, and the Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court. The Council completes an extensive investigation and evaluation of judicial applicants. The Council reviews each applicant's education, experience, bar discipline and credit

records, participation in community activities, and other records. It asks members of the Alaska Bar to evaluate the applicants, encourages the public to submit comments, and interviews the applicants.

Nominees for the Anchorage District Court vacancy are:

John Haley: Mr. Haley has been an Alaska resident for 11½ years and has been practicing law for 11½ years. He graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 2013 and is currently a senior assistant attorney general with the Department of Law, Consumer Protection Unit.

Eric Salinger: Mr. Salinger has been an Alaska resident for 12 years and has been practicing law for 12 years. He graduated from University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 2013 and is currently an administrative law judge in Anchorage.

Matt Widmer: Mr. Widmer has been an Alaska resident for 19½ years and has practiced law for 19½ years. He graduated from William & Mary Law School in 2005 and is currently in private practice in Anchorage.

Nominees for the Alaska Court of Appeals vacancy are:

RuthAnne Beach: Ms. Beach has been an Alaska resident for 12 years and has practiced law for 11½ years. She graduated from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in 2013 and is currently the Deputy Chief of the Office of Criminal Appeals in Anchorage.

Patricia L. Haines: Judge Haines has been an Alaska resident for 14½ years and has practiced law for 13 years. She graduated from Temple University Beasley School of Law in 2010 and is currently a Superior Court Judge in Fairbanks.

Attached are records of the Council members' votes.

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**Alaska Judicial Council
Vote Tally Sheet
Alaska Court of Appeals
November 5, 2025**

Candidates	Council Members						
	Babcock	Collins	DeWitt	Fletcher	Katcher	Wood	Carney*
RuthAnne Beach	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
Lacey Jane Brewster	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Patricia Haines	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Chris Peloso	No	No	Abstain	No	No	No	

**The Chief Justice votes only when to do so would change the result.*



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**Alaska Judicial Council
Vote Tally Sheet
Anchorage District Court
November 6-7, 2025**

Candidates	Council Members						
	Babcock	Collins	DeWitt	Fletcher	Katcher	Wood	Carney*
John Haley	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Dustin Pearson	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	
Eric Salinger	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Peter Scully	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Jonathan Stinson	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Sam Vandergaw	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Matt Widmer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

**The Chief Justice votes only when to do so would change the result.*