alaska judicial council

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Press Release

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For immediate release
November 3, 2026

Announcing Nominees
Juneau District Court

The Alaska Judicial Council met in Juneau on November 2, 2026, to interview applicants for a vacancy on the Juneau District Court.

The Council voted on Monday, November 2, 2026, to nominate **Kevin Andrew Higgins** and **Margaret McWilliams** as the most qualified applicants to fill the Juneau 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 Juneau District Court vacancy are:

Kevin Andrew Higgins: Mr. Higgins has been an Alaska resident for 19½ years and has practiced law for 19 years. He graduated from Lewis & Clark College Northwestern School of Law in 2007 and is currently an assistant attorney general for the Department of Law in Juneau.

Margaret McWilliams: Ms. McWilliams has been an Alaska resident for 19 years and has practiced law for 27 years. She graduated from Harvard Law School in 1999 and is currently the Deputy Director for the Office of Public Advocacy in Juneau.

Attached is the record of the Council members' votes.

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Alaska Judicial Council
Vote Tally Sheet
Juneau District Court
November 2, 2026

Candidates	Council Members						
	Babcock	**Collins**	**DeWitt**	**Fletcher**	**Miller**	**Robbinson**	**Carney***
Margaret McWilliams	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Kevin Higgins	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	

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