



Office of Governor Tim Walz & Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan

District Court Judicial Selection Process

Getting Started

Eligibility¹

To be eligible for a vacancy, you **MUST** be a licensed attorney and resident of the judicial district at the time of application.

Materials

- Cover Letter*
- Resume*
- Application
- Applicant Data Form*
- Supplements

Interviews

- Commission interviews: **District Courts**
- Governor's interviews: **State Capitol**

Updates

Be notified of judicial vacancies at the [Governor's Judicial Appointments](#) webpage.

Judicial Selection Process Timeline²



Start

Vacancy
Announcement



3 weeks

Application
Period



6 weeks

Consideration of
Candidates



9 weeks

Finalists
Recommended



Finish

Governor's
Interviews

To request an application, or for questions related to the selection process,
please email: Judicial.Selection@state.mn.us

Evaluating & Preparing for Your Candidacy



Do I want to be a judge?

Consider the needs and challenges of the court, district, or county.
Contact judges for a ride-along or an informational interview.



Why do I want to be a judge?

What do I know about the work?
What about the work draws me in?
What do I have to give?



Am I ready to be a judge?

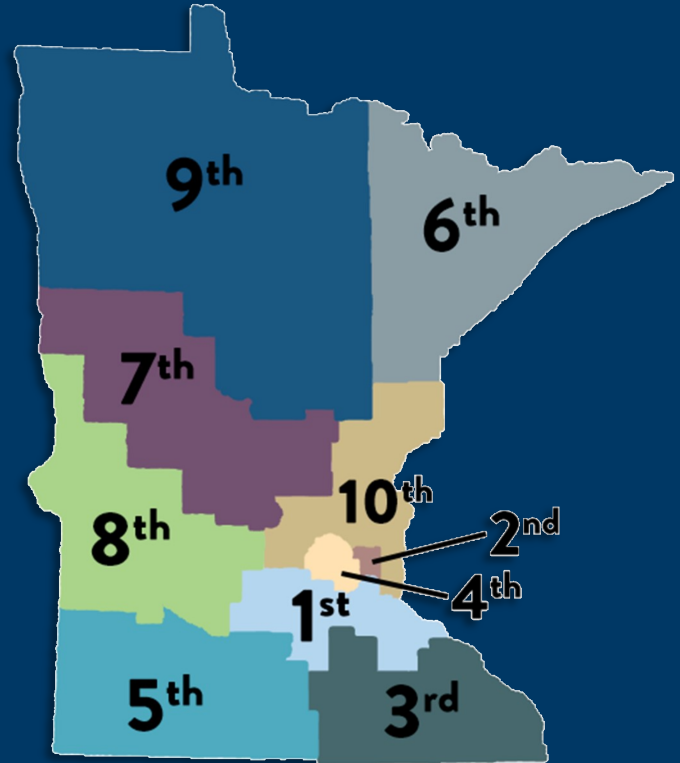
Can I meet the needs of the judiciary?
Am I ready to transition from advocacy to neutrality?



Am I ready to be a candidate?

Anticipate the due diligence process.
Do I have a network of individuals who can speak to my qualifications?

Judicial District Map



Understanding the Due Diligence Process

- The Commission will conduct informal interviews with people who are familiar with you. **Consider making a list of likely contacts.**
- The diligence process helps the Commission develop a full picture of your candidacy. **Consider what diligence and feedback may be given.**
- The Governor's Office will also conduct diligence if the Commission recommends you. **Consider reaching out for feedback.**

When offered, sign up for an informational interview with judges in your district by emailing Judicial.Selection@state.mn.us

Tips

- Be thorough, complete, introspective, and honest.
- Engage with your network early so that they are ready to speak to your qualifications.
- Speak with recent appointees about the process.
- Do a mock interview with professional legal organizations or affinity bar groups.

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I request an application?

- Please email Judicial.Selection@state.mn.us to request an application.

Can I reuse an old application, including letters of recommendation?

- Yes. If your application and letters of recommendation are less than 2 years old from your original submission, you are able to resubmit it for a vacancy. You must always submit a new cover letter, resume, and applicant data form.

Is there a certain format I should submit my materials in?

- No. PDF is typically the best option, but our office does not require that you submit your materials in a particular format.

Am I able to talk to a Commission member?

- Yes. You can talk to a Commission member prior to a vacancy being announced and after the Commission has announced their recommendations. Find a list of the Commission members, [HERE](#).

How will I know when a vacancy has opened/when finalists are announced?

- You can sign up for our distribution lists to receive updates on current vacancies: [HERE](#)

How are interviews structured?

- Commission and Governor's Office interviews are 15-20 minutes long and include approximately 6-8 questions.

Where will they take place?

- Commission interviews take place in person, typically at a courthouse within the district where there is a vacancy. Governor's Office interviews take place in person at the Minnesota State Capitol.

How will I know where to go?

- The Governor's Office will coordinate with you to set up the interview, including location details and other policies.

Who will be in my interview?

- At-large and district Commission members will participate in the interviews. For Governor's Office interviews, generally, the Governor, Lt. Governor, Chair of the Commission on Judicial Selection, members of the Governor's legal team, and the Director of Judicial Appointments.