



alaska judicial council

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Press Release

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For immediate release
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Announcing Nominees *Alaska Supreme Court and Bethel District Court*

The Alaska Judicial Council met in Bethel on November 6, and in Anchorage on November 7 and 8, 2024, to interview applicants for vacancies on the Bethel District Court, and the Alaska Supreme Court. Following its meeting, the Alaska Judicial Council announced that **Kate Demarest, Judge Josie Garton, and Aimee Anderson Oravec** were nominated as the most qualified applicants to fill the Alaska Supreme Court vacancy. The governor has 45 days in which to make the appointment to the Supreme Court from among these nominees.

For the Bethel District Court, the Council nominated one applicant, Magistrate Judge Colleen Baxter. Because the Council's vote did not result in at least two sufficiently qualified applicants, the Council declined to submit any names to the governor and will re-advertise the position.

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 Alaska Supreme Court are:

Kate Demarest: Ms. Demarest has been an Alaskan resident for 14 years and has practiced law for 16 years. She graduated from University of Minnesota Law School in 2008, and is currently a Senior Assistant Attorney General at the Alaska Department of Law in Anchorage.

Josie Garton: Judge Garton has been an Alaskan resident for 24 years and has practiced law for 24 years. She graduated from Lewis and Clark Law School in 2000, and is currently a Superior Court Judge in Anchorage.

Aimee Anderson Oravec: Ms. Oravec has been an Alaskan resident for 25 ½ years and has practiced law for 26 years. She graduated from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law in 1998, and is currently General Counsel for Doyon Utilities, LLC, in Fairbanks.

Nominees for the Bethel District Court are:

Colleen Baxter: Magistrate Judge Baxter has been an Alaska resident for 54 years and has practiced law for 26 ½ years. She graduated from Temple University, Beasley School of Law in 1996, and is currently a magistrate judge in Kotzebue.

Attached are records of the Council members' votes.

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**Alaska Judicial Council
Vote Tally Sheet
Bethel District Court
November 6, 2024**

Candidates	Council Members						
	Babcock	Collins	DeWitt	Hansen	Katcher	Parker	Maassen*
Colleen Baxter	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Sam Cason	No	No	No	No	No	No	

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

**Alaska Judicial Council
Vote Tally Sheet
Alaska Supreme Court
November 7-8, 2024**

Candidates	Council Members						
	Babcock	Collins	DeWitt	Hansen	Katcher	Parker	Maassen*
Kate Demarest	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Josie Garton	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Aimee Anderson Oravec	Yes	Yes	Yes	Recused	Yes	Yes	
Margaret O. Rogers	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	
Kate Vogel	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Holly C. Wells	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Laura Wolff	No	No	No	No	No	No	

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