



alaska judicial council

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Press Release

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For immediate release
February 19, 2026

Announcing Nominees *Bethel District Court & Anchorage District Court*

The Alaska Judicial Council met in Bethel on February 17, and in Anchorage on February 18-19, 2026, to interview applicants for vacancies on the Bethel District Court and Anchorage District Court.

The Alaska Judicial Council voted on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, to nominate **Joy Anderson** and **David R. Boyer** as the most qualified applicants to fill the Bethel District Court vacancy. Following its meeting on February 18 and 19, the Council voted to nominate **Ronald Dupuis**, **Julia Metzger**, **Ben Muse**, **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 Bethel District Court vacancy are:

Joy Anderson: Ms. Anderson has been an Alaska resident for 12 years and has practiced law for 13 years. She graduated from Vanderbilt University Law School in 2011 and is currently a co-director of the Community Justice Worker Resource Center at Alaska Legal Services in Bethel.

David R. Boyer: Mr. Boyer has been an Alaska resident for 8 years and has practiced law for 25½ years. He graduated from Brigham Young University – J. Reuben Clark Law School in 1999 and is currently an assistant attorney general with the Department of Law in Bethel.

Nominees for the Anchorage District Court vacancy are:

Ronald Dupuis: Mr. Dupuis has been an Alaska resident for 15½ years and has practiced law for 15 years. He graduated from Vermont Law School in 2009 and is currently an assistant attorney general with the Office of Special Prosecutions in Anchorage.

Julia Metzger: Ms. Metzger has been an Alaska resident for 13½ years and has practiced law for 13½ years. She graduated from the Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law in 2012 and is currently a supervising assistant public advocate with the Office of Public Advocacy in Anchorage.

Ben Muse: Mr. Muse has been an Alaska resident for 44 years and has practiced law for 15 years. He graduated from the Gonzaga University School of Law in 2010 and is currently an assistant federal defender with the Federal Public Defender in Anchorage.

Eric Salinger: Mr. Salinger has been an Alaska resident for 12½ years and has practiced law for 12½ years. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 2013 and is currently an administrative law judge with the Office of Administrative Hearings in Anchorage.

Matt Widmer: Mr. Widmer has been an Alaska resident for 20½ years and has practiced law for 20½ years. He graduated from William & Mary Law School in 2005 and is currently a partner at Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot in Anchorage.

Attached are records of the Council members' votes.

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**Alaska Judicial Council
Vote Tally Sheet
Bethel District Court
February 17, 2026**

Candidates	Council Members						
	Babcock	Collins	DeWitt	Fletcher	Katcher	Wood	Carney*
Joy K. Anderson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
David R. Boyer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Jason Conrad	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Roberta C. Erwin	No	No	Yes	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
February 18-19, 2026

Candidates	Council Members						
	Babcock	Collins	DeWitt	Fletcher	Katcher	Wood	Carney*
Michael Branson	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Ronald Dupuis	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	
Lindsay Ingaldson	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Julia Metzger	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Ben Muse	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Eric Salinger	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Erin White	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Matt Widmer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

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