

**RHODE ISLAND JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION
PUBLIC COMMENT AND INTERVIEW NOTICE**

Wednesday, August 12, 2026 @ 4:00 p.m.

**LOCATION: Department of Administration
One Capitol Hill, Conference Rooms A/B/C, 2nd Floor
Providence, Rhode Island 02908**

PURPOSES:

An open meeting to:

(1) Approve the Minutes of the Open Meeting of the Commission held on July 28, 2026.

(2) Receive public comment about the applicants under consideration to fill the following vacancies:

- Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Superior Court created by the elevation of Associate Justice Joseph A Montalbano to Presiding Justice;
- Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Superior Court created by the retirement of Associate Justice Jeffrey Lanphear.

To provide public comment, please e-mail Lexi Dorotinsky at lexi@mbmjustice.com **no later than August 11, 2026 at 12:00 pm**, with your name, title (if any), e-mail address, telephone number and the candidate you wish to comment on and you will be provided further instructions to submit public comment during the meeting. The JNC also welcomes written comments from the public. Any submissions should be emailed to the JNC Chair (zmandell@mbmjustice.com) and Lexi Dorotinsky (lexi@mbmjustice.com).

The applicants under consideration for the vacancy created by the elevation of Associate Justice Joseph Montalbano to Presiding Justice are:

Angelyne Cooper-Bailey
Magistrate Denise Cassisi Finkelman
Michael Forte Jr
Carly Beauvais Iafrate
Robert Johnson IV
Joelle Rocha
Jennifer Sylvia
Magistrate Amanda Valentino
Ania Zielinski

The applicants under consideration for the vacancy created by the retirement of Associate Justice Jeffrey Lanphear are:

Angelyne Cooper-Bailey
Zachary Cunha
Amy Dodge Murray
Magistrate Denise Cassisi Finkelman
Michael Forte Jr
Carly Beauvais Iafrate
Robert Johnson IV
Michael Marcello
Joelle Rocha
Magistrate Amanda Valentino
Ania Zielinski

(3) Interview the aforementioned candidates being considered for the Superior Court vacancy created by the elevation of Associate Justice Joseph A Montalbano to Presiding Justice and the Superior Court vacancy created by the retirement of Associate Justice Jeffrey Lanphear.

(4) Vote to select from the aforementioned candidates being considered for the Superior Court vacancy created by the elevation of Associate Justice Joseph A Montalbano to Presiding Justice and the Superior Court vacancy created by the retirement of Associate Justice Jeffrey Lanphear whose names will be sent to the Governor for his consideration.

Commission Members may elect to go into Executive Session to consider and act upon such matters as may be considered at a closed meeting pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1) for discussions of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health. All persons have been notified in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held at open meeting.

Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §§ 42-46-6 (c) and (f), this notice will be posted on July 8, 2026, at the Office of the Department of Administration, the State House Library and electronically with the Secretary of State as well as on the Judicial Nominating Commission website. Anyone wishing to attend this meeting who may have special needs for access or services such as an interpreter, please contact Lexi Dorotinsky at (401) 273-8330 twenty-four hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.

ZACHARY MANDELL
CHAIRPERSON