

Supreme Court of Nevada  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

KATHERINE STOCKS  
State Court Administrator



JOHN McCORMICK  
Assistant Court Administrator

**MEETING SUMMARY**

Organization: **Commission On Judicial Selection**  
Eighth Judicial District, Department 26

Date and Time: Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

Venue: Zoom Meeting

Commissioners Present

Chair, Chief Justice Douglas Herndon  
Vice-Chair Gregory Kamer, Esq.  
Ms. Donna Bath  
Mr. Wilfredo Batista  
Ms. Justina Caviglia, Esq.  
Mr. Andrew Diss  
Mr. Peter Guzman  
Ms. Marisa Rodriguez, Esq.  
Ms. Julie Slabaugh

Guests Present

Dawson Deal  
Daniel Hooge  
Peter Thunell

Commission Staff Present

Ms. Margarita Bautista, Staff  
Ms. Katherine Stocks, Secretary

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order

Chair Herndon called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Chair Herndon welcomed the Commission and thanked both temporary members, Wilfredo Batista and Marisa Rodriguez, Governor and State temporary appointees for their time.

Com'r Rodriguez briefly introduced herself. She has been with the City of North Las Vegas, Civil Division for the last six years and prior to this she practiced civil litigation with a private law firm. She has also held seats on both the Board of Governors and the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada.

Com'r Batista briefly introduced himself. He is currently with Southwest Gas managing the Sustainability programs. He has held various seats on different boards including educational programs as well as public policy programs.

Chair Herndon stated this vacancy is a bit different due to the timing of the vacancy and due to this the number of applicants has been reduced to only two applicants who have currently also applied to be candidates. The purpose of this meeting is to review the applicants to ensure that all materials are complete

and appropriate, to evaluate the proposed interview schedule, and to examine any disclosures or potential conflicts of interest.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum Pursuant to Rule 4.F

Sec'y Stocks took roll and a quorum was present.

3. Public Comment Pursuant to Rule 4.C.ii\*\*

There was no public comment.

4. Approval of Meeting Summary from December 01, 2025 (Tab 1)\*

Com'r Diss moved to approve the meeting summary from December 01, 2025.

Com'r Guzman seconded the motion.

- The motion passed unanimously.

5. Eighth Judicial District, Department 26 Interview Schedule

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. 02:15 p.m. | Peter Thunell |
| 2. 02:45 p.m. | Daniel Hooge  |

Before presenting the interview schedule, Chair Herndon noted there would likely be discussion given that only two applicants had applied.

Vice Chair Kamer stated it was an unnecessary financial burden for the State and that both applicant names should be submitted to the Governor. He added that due to precedent in the past, both names should be submitted to the Governor vacating the interview process.

Com'r Diss concurred.

Vice-Chair Kamer made a motion to forgo the interview process as there is precedent and submit the names to the Governor.

Com'r Diss seconded the motion.

Prior to voting, a discussion period was held.

Com'r Rodriguez stated she received a text from an attorney who was unaware the application period had begun and asked whether the Commission would consider reopening it, as it had in the past.

Chair Herndon said prior reopenings had occurred only when no viable candidates were available, which was not the case here, and that reopening would strain resources and cause delays.

Com'r Diss noted that precedent allows forwarding applicants to the Governor when fewer than three apply, and that reopening the application was discouraged for fairness to current applicants.

Com'r Guzman concurred with sentiments of not reopening the application process.

Com'r Caviglia added that she had done a review of the applications and unlike in other panels where the application process was reopened, the two applicants were well qualified.

Vice Chair Kamer stated that the only people who are at disservice from not reopening the vacancy are the two temporary members.

Com'r Bath concurred with sentiments as well as added that no matter what the outcome or decision made, someone would not be entirely content.

Chair Herndon supported forwarding the two applicants to the Governor but opposed skipping interviews, noting they are important for the legal community, the public, and the Governor to evaluate the candidates. He added that there might be a lack of applicants in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District vacancy as well.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated that she understood the situation and simply wanted to ensure that the message sent to her had been conveyed to the full Commission. She added that she appreciated the perspectives on both sides of the argument; however, she leaned in favor of conducting interviews, as they provide the public an opportunity to see another side of the applicants, particularly if the applicants will ultimately appear on the ballot in an election.

Chair Herndon proposed that it would be good to still do the interviews but possibly have some commissioners attend virtually.

Vice Chair Kamer stated he would accept the proposed amendment to have virtual interviews rather than forgoing the interviews entirely.

Sec'y Stocks asked for clarification if the proposed amendment was to have the interviews be fully virtual or partially virtual with some present in the Las Vegas Courthouse as some logistics would come into play.

Chair Herndon stated he would like to have hybrid interviews for those who wish to come can and those who can't, to be remote. Interviewees and public would be in person.

Com'r Guzman asked if this would be a consistent option or a single instance.

Chair Herndon stated this was being offered as an amendment to this instance and every vacancy should be looked at individually.

Com'r Guzman added he is very sensitive to precedent and would prefer to continue following that precedent.

Com'r Slabaugh joined the meeting shortly after it began and was promptly briefed by Chair Herndon.

Com'r Diss withdrew his second to the motion if it is amended. His preference was to support the original motion. He did clarify that if there ever was an option for hybrid in a future vacancy he would prefer in person as it allows for a more genuine feel of the atmosphere and environment.

Com'r Bath concurred with Com'r Diss and felt that a precedent was being set.

Com'r Slabaugh stated this vacancy as well as the vacancy in the Second Judicial District are different than others as they occurred right around the filing period not providing enough time for them to run. Regardless of if interviews are held, the two applicants will need to be forwarded to the Governor regardless. Added that for the First Judicial District vacancy, no interviews were held and names were sent directly to the Governor.

Com'r Guzman requested some clarification on whether the Commission is required to send three names as the precedent has been set that only two names have been sent in the past.

Com'r Slabaugh clarified that it wasn't a requirement that three names be sent, just that names be sent to the Governor.

Chair Herndon stated that the original motion would be voted on then depending on that, there would be a separate motion on how interviews would be held.

Chair Herndon closed discussion on the motion.

- Vice-Chair Kamer reiterated the motion to waive the interview process and forward the two nominees' names to the Governor.
- Com'r Diss seconded the motion.
- The following Commissioners voted to approve the motion:
  - Vice-Chair Kamer
  - Com'r Bath
  - Com'r Batista
  - Com'r Caviglia
  - Com'r Diss
  - Com'r Guzman
  - Com'r Slabaugh
- The following Commissioners voted against the motion:
  - Chair Herndon
  - Com'r Rodriguez

Chair Herndon stated that the motion carried, interviews would not take place, and staff would notify the applicants before forwarding their names directly to the Governor.

#### 6. Disclosures pursuant to Rule 2\*

Com'r Rodriguez disclosed she worked alongside Mr. Hooge when she was on the Board of Governor's but felt it was not a conflict.

Chair Herndon disclosed he knew both Mr. Hooge and Mr. Thunell on a professional standpoint from working with both in the past.

Com'r Guzman disclosed he met both applicants from social events hosted by the Latin Chamber of Commerce.

No conflicts were found by the Commission.

Sec'y Stocks brought up two non-agenda items.

- The Governor would be receiving all items pertaining to the two applicants on Thursday February 12, 2026, which will give him until Friday March 13<sup>th</sup> for his selection of an applicant.
- Due to this meeting being the first meeting of the year, it is necessary to vote on the appointment of a Vice-Chair.
  - Com'r Diss nominated Com'r Kamer as Vice-Chair.
  - Vice-Chair Kamer declined the nomination stating there would be value to having another vice-chair and he would like to step down from the Commission at the end of his term.
  - Vice-Chair Kamer nominated Com'r Diss as Vice-Chair.
  - Com'r Guzman seconded the motion.
    - The motion passed unanimously.

7. Public Comment Pursuant to Rule 4.C.ii\*\*

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

The Commission adjourned at 03:36 p.m.