



**CITY OF SURPRISE**  
**Judicial Selection Advisory Commission**  
**16000 N. Civic Center Plaza**  
**Surprise, AZ 85374**  
 Wednesday, March 25, 2026 @ 6:00 PM  
 Saguaro Room

- A. Call To Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Current Events and Reports
- E. Staff Reports
- F. Judicial Selection Advisory Commission Agenda

CONSENT AGENDA:

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

- |    |          |  |                 |
|----|----------|--|-----------------|
| 1. | Citywide | Consideration and action pertaining to the approval of the March 26, 2025, Judicial Selection Advisory Commission meeting minutes. | Human Resources |
| 2. | Citywide | Consideration and action pertaining to the selection of a Chair for the Judicial Selection Advisory Commission.                    | Human Resources |
| 3. | Citywide | Consideration and action pertaining to the selection of a Vice-Chair for the Judicial Selection Advisory Commission.               | Human Resources |
| 4. | Citywide | Discussion and review pertaining to the Judicial Selection Advisory Commission Procedural Rules.                                   | Human Resources |

G. Call To The Public

INSTRUCTIONS: In order to address the City Council, you will need to fill out a Call to the Public Form available at the front counter, and then turn it in to the City Clerk before the meeting begins. You may also [fill out the Call to the Public form online](#) If submitting form electronically, please submit to City Clerk at least one hour before the meeting start time.

Note: A.R.S. 38-431.01(H)- During this time members of the public may address City Council only on issues within the jurisdiction of the City Council which are not an item on the agenda. At the conclusion of the open call, City Council may respond to criticism, may ask staff to review the matter or may ask that the matter be put on a future agenda. No discussion or action shall take place on any item raised.

Approval of items on the Consent Agenda – all items with an asterisk (\*) are considered to be routine matters and will be enacted by one motion and one roll call vote to the City Council. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Councilmember requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

Please be aware that Council Members may not discuss or respond to matters raised during call to the public that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Council Members may however, in their discretion, discuss or respond to relevant matters raised during a noticed public hearing or agenda item.

H. Other Business and Future Agenda Items

I. Adjournment

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KRISTI PASSARELLI, CITY CLERK

POSTED: Tuesday, March 24th, 2026 @ 1:15 PM

**SPECIAL NOTE: PERSONS WITH SPECIAL ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS, INCLUDING LARGE PRINT MATERIALS OR INTERPRETER, SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE @ 623.222.1200 OR CLERK@SURPRISEAZ.GOV, BY NO LATER THAN 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING TIME.**



**CITY OF SURPRISE**  
**Judicial Selection Advisory Commission**

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Council Meeting Date: March 25, 2026  
Submitting Department: Human Resources  
Staff Recommendations:

Contact Person:  
District: Citywide

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Consent: No                      Regular: Yes                      Public Hearing: No                      Report/Discussion: No

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**Agenda Wording:**

Consideration and action pertaining to the approval of the March 26, 2025, Judicial Selection Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

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**Motion:**

I move to approve the March 25, 2025, Judicial Selection Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

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**Background:**

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**Objective Analysis:**

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**Policy Compliant:**

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**Financial Impact:**

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**Budget Impact:**

**FTE Impact:**

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. JSAC Meeting Minutes March 26, 2025
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**CITY OF SURPRISE**  
**JUDICIAL SELECTION ADVISORY COMMISSION (JSAC) MINUTES**

16000 N. Civic Center Plaza

Surprise, AZ 85374

Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

- A. Call to Order at 6:02 p.m.
- B. Roll Call - Members present: Chair Cary Vice-Chair Furuya, Commissioners Jessen, Lang, Stutzman, and Valles.
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Current Events and Reports – None
- E. Staff Reports – None
- F. Judicial Selection Advisory Commission Agenda

Call to the Public: No comments from public.

Consent Agenda:

- 1. Consideration and action pertaining to the approval of the January 15, 2025, Judicial Selection Advisory Commission meeting minutes – APPROVED

Motion: Stutzman

2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessen

Votes: 6 Yes Votes; 0 No Votes

Regular Agenda – Public Hearing:

- 2. Consideration and action pertaining to the recommendation to Surprise City Council for the reappointment of Presiding Judge Louis Frank Dominguez, whose current term expires June 30, 2025.

Commissioner Lang– Has had an opportunity to run into Judge Dominguez at many events and his leadership is consistent and visible and he presents a great face to the legal community for the City of Surprise.

Vice- Chair Furuya– Not only is he (Judge Dominguez) a leader in the community, but he is a role model to those who share his background

Chair Carey – Appreciates that Judge Dominguez was accommodating of someone’s 9-month old child in the courtroom. Also, that City Court judges are important for the judiciary because that’s the only experience a lot of people will have with the judiciary.

Motion: Jessen  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Furuya  
Votes: 6 Yes; 0 No

3. Consideration and action pertaining to the recommendation to Surprise City Council for the reappointment of Associate Judge Catherine Ann Gaudreau, whose current term expires June 30, 2025.

Chair Carey–Very positive evaluations. Demystifying what judges do. Access to judges. Article writing. Cares about getting information about the law to the public.

Commissioner Stutzman – Passion comes through in her writing. Percentage of protection orders that come through the City of Surprise.

Vice-Chair Furuya – Survey responses were well thought out. Spoke to broad base of knowledge.

Votes:6 Yes Votes; 0 No Votes

- G. Other Business and Future Agenda Items – Chair Carey thanked Court and HR staff for their work on putting together the reappointment packets and surveys. Commissioner Lang also commented on the binder. No future items were added to the agenda.

#### H. Executive Session

None.

#### I. Adjournment

Motion: Lang  
2<sup>nd</sup>:Jessen

Chair Carey adjourned the meeting at 6:32 pm.

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Flynn Carey, JSAC Chair

ATTEST:

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Rhesha Craigen, JSAC

Secretary CERTIFICATION:

I, Rhesha Craigen, Secretary for the Judicial Selection Advisory Commission of the City of Surprise, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Judicial Selection Advisory Commission Meeting of March 26, 2025.

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Rhesha Craigen, JSAC Secretary



**CITY OF SURPRISE**  
**Judicial Selection Advisory Commission**

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Council Meeting Date: March 25, 2026  
Submitting Department: Human Resources  
Staff Recommendations:

Contact Person:  
District: Citywide

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Consent: No                      Regular: Yes                      Public Hearing: No                      Report/Discussion: No

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**Agenda Wording:**

Consideration and action pertaining to the selection of a Chair for the Judicial Selection Advisory Commission.

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**Motion:**

I move to elect (name) for the position of Chair of the Judicial Selection Advisory Commission.

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**Background:**

Pursuant to Chapter 2 - ADMINISTRATION / Article VIII, Section 2-295, Number 11 - BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS of the Surprise Municipal Code: Chair/Vice-chair; elections. Each body must elect a chair and a vice-chair.

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**Objective Analysis:**

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**Policy Compliant:**

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**Financial Impact:**

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**Budget Impact:**

**FTE Impact:**

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

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**CITY OF SURPRISE**  
**Judicial Selection Advisory Commission**

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Council Meeting Date: March 25, 2026  
Submitting Department: Human Resources  
Staff Recommendations:

Contact Person:  
District: Citywide

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Consent: No                      Regular: Yes                      Public Hearing: No                      Report/Discussion: No

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**Agenda Wording:**

Consideration and action pertaining to the selection of a Vice-Chair for the Judicial Selection Advisory Commission.

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**Motion:**

I move to elect (name) for the position of Vice-Chair of the Judicial Selection Advisory Commission.

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**Background:**

Pursuant to Chapter 2 - ADMINISTRATION / Article VIII, Section 2-295, Number 11 - BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS of the Surprise Municipal Code: Chair/Vice-chair; elections. Each body must elect a chair and vice-chair.

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**Objective Analysis:**

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**Policy Compliant:**

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**Financial Impact:**

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**Budget Impact:**

**FTE Impact:**

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

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**CITY OF SURPRISE**  
**Judicial Selection Advisory Commission**

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Council Meeting Date: March 25, 2026  
Submitting Department: Human Resources  
Staff Recommendations:

Contact Person:  
District: Citywide

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Consent: No                      Regular: Yes                      Public Hearing: No                      Report/Discussion: No

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**Agenda Wording:**

Discussion and review pertaining to the Judicial Selection Advisory Commission Procedural Rules.

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**Motion:**

No motion.

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**Background:**

Pursuant to Chapter 30, Article III, Sec. 30-43, subsection (a), of the Surprise City Code: "The commission shall hold no less than one meeting each year for the purpose of reviewing the commission's operating procedures."

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**Objective Analysis:**

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**Policy Compliant:**

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**Financial Impact:**

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**Budget Impact:**

**FTE Impact:**

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. JSAC Procedural Rules
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**City of Surprise  
Judicial Selection Advisory Commission  
Procedural Rules**

Rule 1. Commission Officers

The Commission members shall elect officers as required by city ordinance or by-law. The chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Commission. In the chairman's absence, the vice chairman shall preside over the meetings.

Rule 2. Secretary

The Secretary to the Commission will be as designated by ordinance or rule. The duties of Secretary will include preparing and keeping minutes of all meetings, sending information packets to the members prior to a meeting, ensuring the meetings are duly posted as required and other duties as required to conduct the business of the Commission.

Rule 3. Duties of Commission Members

- (A). A Commission member shall consider each application for judicial office in a fair, impartial and objective manner.
- (B). Any Commission member who knows of any fact which may cause or appear to cause a conflict of interest with an applicant shall report such facts to the Commission for its determination of whether the member should deliberate concerning the applicant.
- (C). A Commission member shall discourage any person or organization attempting to influence him/her with facts or opinions other than those relevant to the judicial qualifications of the applicant.

Rule 4. Commission Meetings

- (A). All meetings of the Commission shall comply with the Arizona Open Meeting Law.
- (B). Once a year the Commission shall review the Commission's procedural rules.
- (C). The chairman shall issue a call for a meeting promptly upon being advised of the existence or anticipated existence of a judicial vacancy that has to or will have to be filled.
- (D). A quorum for the Commission shall be four (4) members. The Commission may act on any matter by a majority vote of the members present and voting on the matter.

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(E). Any Commission member who is absent from three consecutive meetings without being excused by the chairman shall be considered to have abandoned their appointment and shall be removed from the Commission.

#### Rule 5. Recruitment of Applicants

Commission members shall actively seek and encourage qualified individuals to apply for judicial office. Commission members should be mindful that qualified persons often will not seek judicial appointment and, thus, it is incumbent on members to seek well-qualified persons and encourage them to apply.

#### Rule 6. Procedure for Recommendation for Reappointment

(A). The chairman shall notify the Commission in writing once apprised about the expiration of an existing term of a city judge.

(B). The Commission shall hold a meeting to determine whether to recommend the reappointment of a city judge whose term will be expiring.

(C). All interested members of the public are encouraged to comment on the reappointment of city judges.

(D). The process for reappointment is outlined in section 30-44 of Ordinance #09-41.

(E). The Commission's written recommendation concerning the reappointment of a city judge shall be delivered to the city council as required by the ordinance.

#### Rule 7. Preliminary Screening of Applicants for New Vacancies

(A). Upon receipt of the applications packets, the Commission shall meet in executive session for the purpose of reviewing the qualifications of the applicants.

(B). Those applicants who are selected to be interviewed shall become candidates. The names and applications of candidates will be made available pursuant to Arizona Supreme Court Rule 123 and the public records law.

#### Rule 8. Investigation of Applicants

Commission members shall conduct investigations into the background and qualifications of the applicants. Using the Application for Judicial Office as a guide, the Commission shall conduct a due diligence inquiry of those individuals, organizations and institutions mentioned in the application. The Commission, however, need not limit itself to the

Approved 6/7/10

application but may contact other individuals, institutions and organizations as it deems reasonable in its effort to obtain as much background information on an applicant as is reasonable.

Rule 9. Selection of Nominees.

(A). The Commission shall interview each candidate in accordance with the Arizona Open Meeting Law. The Commission shall vote on the candidates in the public meeting.

(B). Before proceeding to vote on the candidates, the Commission may elect to meet in executive session to discuss a candidate's qualifications for judicial office.

Rule 10. Transmittal to the Presiding Judge

Recommendations regarding the initial appointment of associate judges shall be made to the Presiding Judge as required by Section 30-45 of Ordinance #09-41.