

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF
THE NEBRASKA JUDICIAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
AUGUST 15, 2025**

Pursuant to the press release issued August 1, 2025, the public hearing of the Nebraska Judicial Resources Commission was held on the 15th day of August 2025, in the Nebraska Supreme Court Courtroom, State Capitol Building, in Lincoln, Nebraska.

AGENDA ITEM I: The Chair called the proceedings to order at approximately 10 a.m. The proceedings included a Zoom videoconferencing option for Commission members. Roll Call by Ashley Jenkins.

PRESENT (* denotes Zoom attendance)

Justice John R. Freudenberg

Judge Anne Paine*

Judge Matthew Kahler*

Jane Langan Mach

Kenneth Hartman

Ron Temple*

Meagan Spomer*

Jacqueline Tessendorf*

Robert Parker*

Darlene Starman

Nancy McCabe

Roxanne Kracl*

Cydnianne Hall*

Maria Whitmore*

Brian Phares*

Taylor Gage

EXCUSED

Judge Travis O’Gorman

AGENDA ITEM II: The Chair confirmed that all Commission members had received and reviewed the minutes from the April 11, 2025, hearing. On a voice vote the commissioners unanimously accepted the minutes of April 11th.

AGENDA ITEM III: The following exhibits were received and considered by the Commission, and are attached to these minutes:

- Exhibit 1: Meeting Agenda
- Exhibit 2: Minutes of the April 11, 2025, hearing
- Exhibit 3: Resignation letter from PaTricia A. Freeman dated May 9, 2025
- Exhibit 4: Retirement letter from Judge Laurie J. Yardley dated June 25, 2025
- Exhibit 5: Retirement letter from Judge Leigh Ann Retelsdorf dated April 18, 2025
- Exhibit 6: Resignation letter from Judge Michael L. Long (received May 23, 2025)
- Exhibit 7: District Courts Weighted Caseload Report Fiscal Year 2025
- Exhibit 8: County Courts Weighted Caseload Report Fiscal Year 2025
- Exhibit 9: Letter from Judge Leanne M. Srb dated July 22, 2025, re: request to declare judicial vacancy - 4th District, District Court.
- Exhibit 10: Letter from Hon. John M. Gerrard, NSBA President-Elect, dated August 7, 2025, re: NSBA Judicial Resources Committee recommendations.
- Exhibit 11: Letter from Judge Timothy C. Phillips dated August 12, 2025, re: request to declare judicial vacancy - 3rd District, County Court.
- Exhibit 12: Letter from Judge David J. Partsch dated August 12, 2025, re: request to declare judicial vacancy - 2nd District, County Court.

AGENDA ITEM IV: The public hearing was conducted, and the Commission received and considered public testimony from: Judge David J. Partsch, 2nd District, County Court; Judge Timothy C. Phillips, 3rd District, County Court; Judge Donna F. Taylor, 7th District, County Court; and Corey Steel, State Court Administrator.

(a): It was moved by Kenneth Hartman and seconded by Megan Spomer to declare a judicial vacancy in the County Court, 2nd Judicial District, due to the appointment of Judge PaTricia A. Freeman to the

Court of Appeals, with the primary location being Papillion, Sarpy County, Nebraska. On a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

(b): It was moved by Jane Langan Mach and seconded by Taylor Gage to declare a judicial vacancy in the County Court, 3rd Judicial District, due to the retirement of Judge Laurie J. Yardley, with the primary location being Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska. On a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

(c) It was moved by Meagan Spomer and seconded by Taylor Gage to declare a judicial vacancy in the District Court, 4th Judicial District, due to the retirement of Judge Leigh Ann Retelsdorf, with the primary location being Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska. On a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

(d) It was moved by Maria Whitmore and seconded by Ron Temple to declare a judicial vacancy in the County Court, 7th Judicial District, due to the appointment of Judge Michael L. Long to the District Court, with the primary location being Madison, Madison County, Nebraska. On a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM V: The Chair noted that the next public hearing of the Judicial Resources Commission will be held on Friday, November 21, 2025, at 10:00am.

AGENDA ITEM VI: There being no other matters, the Judicial Resources Commission hearing was adjourned by the Chair.

Respectfully submitted:



Justice John R. Freudenberg
Chair