

State Judicial Nominating Commission
Minutes of a Meeting
July 19, 2024

A meeting of the State Judicial Nominating Commission of the State of Iowa (the “Commission”) was held on July 19, 2024, via videoconference, pursuant to notice given by e-mail from Janece Valentine, the Chair of the Commission, to each of the members of the Commission (each, a “Commissioner”). Attending the meeting were all of the Commissioners except Al Parrish, Garret Pıklapp, and Tim Semelroth.

1. Call to order.
 - a. Janece called the meeting to order at approximately 1:07 p.m. (CT).
2. Previously proposed rule amendments.
 - a. Brett Roberts noted that a draft of the Amended and Restated State and District Judicial Nominating Commissions Uniform Rules of Procedure was e-mailed to Commissioners on Monday, May 20.
 - b. Kelsey Marquard noted that proposed rule amendments relating to voting procedure were discussed and approved during the Commission’s meeting on Wednesday, May 29.
 - c. Brett then reviewed the other proposed rule amendments intended to ensure the rules are consistent with the Iowa Code.
 - d. Dustin Graber then made a motion to adopt the draft Amended and Restated State and District Judicial Nominating Commissions Uniform Rules of Procedure which was e-mailed to Commissioners on Monday, May 20. Leon Spies seconded the motion. The motion was then unanimously approved by the thirteen Commissioners then in attendance.
3. Other potential rule amendments.
 - a. Janece then noted the following four other potential rule amendments:
 - i. Requiring training for new commissioners.
 - ii. Prohibiting commissioners from informally interviewing applicants in advance of a formal interview date.
 - iii. Prohibiting communications between commissioners and the Governor’s office.
 - iv. Revisions to the application used to apply for judicial vacancies.

- b. The Commissioners then in attendance then discussed the potential rule changes and various Commissioners offered comments. After discussion, it was decided that:
 - i. The Commission cannot prohibit commissioners from informally interviewing applicants in advance of a formal interview date given Iowa Code Section 46.13(3).
 - ii. Commissioners who have access to training materials which were previously used by the Commission would share such materials with the other Commissioners.
 - iii. Janece would solicit feedback from the chairs of the various district commissions as well as from Professor Caufield of Drake University Law School.
4. Review process for approved rule amendments.
- a. The Commissioners then in attendance discussed what, if any, review process was required by the Iowa Code or other applicable law or rule to adopt the Amended and Restated State and District Judicial Nominating Commissions Uniform Rules of Procedure.
 - b. Kelsey Marquard then made a motion that the Amended and Restated State and District Judicial Nominating Commissions Uniform Rules of Procedure be adopted with an effective date of September 1, 2024. Dustin Graber seconded the motion. The motion was then unanimously approved by the twelve Commissioners then in attendance.
5. Adjournment.
- a. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:31 p.m. (CT).

Prepared by: Brett Roberts, Secretary