

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CANDIDATES SOUGHT FOR COUNTY JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER

MOUNTAIN CITY, TN – Upon the resignation/retirement of Judicial Commissioner, Mr. Key Kernaghan, the County Commissioners are now tasked with seeking a qualified candidate to appoint as Judicial Commissioner for the election term of 4 years. Interested applicants can obtain information through the Johnson County Mayor's Office who will be coordinating efforts on behalf of the Commission Chair, Freddy Phipps. The meeting to appoint Judicial Commissioner has been scheduled for Thursday February 19, 2026 at 7pm in the upper chamber of the Johnson County Courthouse located at 222 West Main Street in Mountain City Tennessee.

According to Tennessee Code Annotated TCA Section 40-1-111 through 40-5-201 the following are requirements for potential

Judicial Commissioner

Nature of Work

This is responsible legal and law enforcement work assisting with General Sessions court operations in Johnson County. Activities associated with the job include coordinating and assisting with the issuance of arrest warrants, search warrants, failure to appear warrants, summons, orders of protection etc., setting bonds for individuals in custody, assisting with General Sessions court operations and serving as a liaison between the judges, law enforcement agencies, inmates in custody and the public. Additional activities include interacting with court officers and law enforcement personnel, determining if there is sufficient evidence to issue warrants and/or citations and ensuring that the correct TCA codes are utilized on all legal documents. Job responsibilities require strong organizational, decision-making and interpersonal skills, considerable knowledge of the procedures involved with the issuance of warrants, orders of protection, citations, etc. for individuals suspected of criminal activity and the legal processes and protocols associated with criminal and civil cases coming before the court. Job performance is evaluated by the Chief Magistrate and General Sessions Court Judge(s) through review of knowledge and expertise in legal proceedings, efficiency and effectiveness of court operations, ability to interact successfully with law enforcement personnel, defendants, attorneys and the public, organizational and decision-making skills, and knowledge of legal procedures and protocols associated with General Sessions Court operations.

Illustrative Examples of Work

- Adheres to operational policies and procedures established to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of legal services for General Sessions Court.
- Assists with the preparation and issuance of warrants for individuals suspected of criminal activity in Johnson County.
- Ensures the proper enforcement of established legal standards and procedures pertaining to the issuance of warrants, summons, search warrants, orders of protection, etc.
- Assists with setting bonds for individuals arrested for alleged criminal activity when necessary.
- Assists with conducting jail arraignments in the absence of General Sessions Court judges when necessary.
- Assists with entering warrants into the computer database and updates as necessary.
- Attends Judicial Commissioner Association meetings to remain current on all proposed and/or enacted legislation pertaining to the roles and responsibilities of Judicial Commissioners.
- Maintains records and supporting documentation of all activities performed on the job including warrants issued, bonding arrangements, hours worked, etc.
- Assists with issuing failure to appear warrants for individuals not meeting Court appearance obligations.
- Makes decisions regarding the establishment of probable cause, evidence available to issue warrants, citations, orders of protection, etc.
- Serves as a liaison between the judge's office, law enforcement personnel, inmates in custody and the public.
- Assists the public by answering incoming calls, explaining court proceedings and providing general information regarding General Sessions Court operations.
- Stamps file orders, petitions and motions of the court.
- Issues and enters civil warrants into the computer.
- Performs related duties as required.

Necessary Requirements of Work

- Graduation from an accredited four-year high school diploma.

- Potentially Helpful but Not Explicitly Required:

Coursework and training in criminal justice, law enforcement, public administration or closely related field; a minimum of three years' experience working in court operations and/or law enforcement; strong decision making, organizational and interpersonal skills; or any equivalent combination of education and experience to provide the following knowledge, abilities and skills:

Necessary Special Requirements

- Possession of a valid Tennessee Driver's License and the ability to obtain insurance at standard vehicle liability rates.
- Certification as an appointed Judicial Commissioner every one year after evaluation by the General Session Judges.

- Membership in the Judicial Commissioner Association.
- Must meet all applicable T.C.A. requirements for carrying weapons.
- Must attend 4 days of training each year. Location is determined by the Tenn Judicial Commission Association.

Applicants can submit a resume in person to the mayors' office located at the Johnson County Court House, located at 222 West Main Street in Mountain City, Tennessee or by emailing office.mayor@johnsoncountyttn.gov.

Similarly, as with prior appointments for successor positions, only members of the Johnson County Commission can nominate an individual for consideration. The appointments will be determined by a simple majority vote. In the event of a tie, the county mayor will cast the deciding vote.

The deadline for resumes to be submitted for County Commission review prior to the meeting is February 12, 2026 12 pm. For more information, please call (423) 727-9696
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