



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: May 28, 2025

In Control: Municipal Court Advisory Committee

DEPARTMENT: Municipal Courts

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Carla Obledo

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Interview and possible recommendation for reappointment of Municipal Court Presiding Judge and Interviews for part-time Municipal Court Judges

SUMMARY:

The Municipal Court Advisory Committee will meet to conduct interviews and may take action on the recommendation for the reappointment of Municipal Court Presiding Judge Carla Obledo, as well as the appointment of part-time Municipal Court Judges. Applications have been received from individuals interested in filling vacant, unexpired terms for part-time judge positions.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The San Antonio Municipal Court has jurisdiction over Class C misdemeanor criminal cases and limited civil matters, including hearings related to dangerous dogs, cruelly treated animals, and parking or vehicle-stopping offenses. The court currently has ten full-time municipal judges, ten part-time municipal judges, and one presiding judge. There are two additional vacant part-time

municipal judge positions to be filled.

The presiding judge is selected by the City Council from among the existing judges to serve a two-year term ending April 30 of odd-numbered years. To qualify, a candidate must be a U.S. citizen, a licensed attorney in good standing with at least two years of legal practice in Texas, and must have resided in the City of San Antonio for at least three years immediately prior to appointment. The presiding judge is responsible for the administrative oversight of all Municipal Court Judges, establishing their work schedules, maintaining a central docket, and performing other duties as outlined in City Code Chapter 20 and Texas Government Code Chapter 30.

Terms for both full-time and part-time municipal judges are two years, expiring on April 30 of even-numbered years. Judges may also perform magistrate duties as assigned by the presiding judge. Municipal Court Judges are appointed by the City Council every two years, with new terms beginning May 1. Qualifications include: (1) U.S. citizenship; (2) Texas residency; (3) licensure as an attorney in good standing; (4) at least two years of legal practice in Texas; and (5) residency in the City of San Antonio for at least three years prior to appointment.

ISSUE:

The Presiding Judge is appointed by the City Council to a two-year term ending on April 30 of odd-numbered years. The appointment to the part-time judge positions will be for the remainder of the unexpired term, ending April 30, 2026.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Judicial salaries and compensation are included in the Municipal Court's General Fund as part of the FY 2025 Adopted Budget.

ALTERNATIVES:

None. This item is for the interview of, and possible action on, the recommendation to reappoint the Presiding Judge and appoint part-time judges.

RECOMMENDATION:

Consideration and possible action on the recommendation to reappoint Carla Obledo as Municipal Court Presiding Judge, and on the recommendation to appoint part-time Municipal Court Judges.