

Journal of the Joint Assembly

IN JOINT ASSEMBLY, MARCH 20, 2025

10:30 A.M.

The Senate and House of Representatives met in the Hall of the House of Representatives pursuant to a Joint Resolution which was read by the Clerk and is as follows:

J.R.S. 16 Joint resolution providing for a Joint Assembly to vote on the retention of seven Superior Court Judges and one Magistrate.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at ten o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon to vote on the retention of seven Superior Court Judges and one Magistrate. In case the vote to retain said Judges and Magistrate shall not be made on that day, the two Houses shall meet in Joint Assembly at ten o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, on each succeeding day, Saturdays and Sundays excepted, and proceed until the above is completed.

Presiding Officer

Honorable John S. Rodgers, President of the Senate, in the Chair.

Clerk

John H. Bloomer, Jr., Secretary of the Senate, Clerk.

Statement of Presiding Officer

Pursuant to our Constitution and statutes we are assembled here today in Joint Assembly to cast our votes on the retention of seven Superior Judges, and one Magistrate.

This year we are again operating under the Judicial Retention Act passed in 1976, as amended in subsequent sessions of the General Assembly, which establishes the procedure for retention of incumbent Superior Judges and Magistrates. Amendments made in 2010 require the retention of Magistrates. The date for holding joint assemblies for the retention of judges is set by statute to be the eleventh Thursday of the session.

The procedure to be followed requires the vote be by written ballot. There will be two separate written ballots: one containing the names of all of the candidates for retention as Superior Judges and one containing the name of the candidate for retention as Magistrate.

Retention of Superior Judges

We shall now proceed to the matter of retention of the incumbent Superior Judges. Under the Judicial Retention Act which establishes the procedure for the retention of Superior Judges, nominations may not be received from the floor. Rather, each judge seeking retention must file a declaration of intention to seek retention with the Secretary of State or if a Superior Judge is appointed after September 1 of the year preceding the expiration of the term of offices the Superior Judge shall automatically be a candidate for retention without filing notice. The name of each judge seeking retention is automatically voted on pursuant to the terms of the Judicial Retention Act.

In addition, the Judicial Retention Act provides that when a candidate does so declare for retention, the question to be decided is:

"Shall the following Superior Judges be retained in office?"

Tellers Appointed

Accordingly, we will need tellers, and the Chair now appoints as tellers:

Senator Brian P. Collamore, of Rutland District, as Chief Teller
Senator Tanya C. Vyhovsky, of Chittenden-Central District
Senator Ann E. Watson, of Washington District
Representative Abbey Duke, of Burlington
Representative Allen Demar, of Enosburgh
Representative Laura Sibia, of Dover
Representative Chloe Tomlinson, of Winooski

With respect to the matter of retention of the incumbent Superior Judges, we have received declarations of intention to seek retention to the office of Superior Judge from the following:

Henry Dickson Corbett, IV.
Kevin William Griffin
Howard Andrew Kalfus
Elizabeth D. Mann
Megan J. Shafritz
Timothy Bert Tomasi
Thomas A. Zonay

The question to be decided in each of these cases shall be as follows:

"Shall Superior Judge Henry Dickson Corbett, IV be retained in office?"

Yes _____ No _____.

"Shall Superior Judge Kevin William Griffin be retained in office?"

Yes _____ No _____.

"Shall Superior Judge Howard Andrew Kalfus be retained in office?"

Yes _____ No _____.

"Shall Superior Judge Elizabeth D. Mann be retained in office?"

Yes _____ No _____.

"Shall Superior Judge Megan J. Safritz be retained in office?"

Yes _____ No _____.

"Shall Superior Judge Timothy Bert Tomasi be retained in office?"

Yes _____ No _____.

"Shall Superior Judge Thomas A. Zonay be retained in office?"

Yes _____ No _____.

The ballot which you will receive will contain these questions in printed form on one single ballot. The terms of these Superior Judges are for six years, from and including the first day of April, 2025, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

To facilitate the procedure for this morning, the Chair will rule, unless there is objection, that debate on these seven Superior Judges will be received separately. At the end of the debates for the seven Superior Judges, any general debate on the entire question shall be in order.

Committee Reports

First, we will receive the report of the Joint Committee on Judicial Retention. The Chair now recognizes the Chair of this Committee, the member from Williston, Representative Angela Arsenault, for the purpose of receiving her report.

Representative Angela Arsenault, then delivered a general report for the Joint Committee on Judicial Retention.

The Chair then recognized the member from Sheldon, Representative Thomas Oliver, who delivered the report of the Joint Committee on Judicial Retention with respect to the candidacy of Superior Judge Henry Dickson Corbett, IV.

The Chair then recognized the member from Montpelier, Representative Conor Casey, who delivered the report of the Joint Committee on Judicial Retention with respect to the candidacy of Superior Judge Kevin William Griffin.

The Chair then recognized Senator Terry K. Williams, of Rutland District, who delivered the report of the Joint Committee on Judicial Retention with respect to the candidacy of Superior Judge Howard Andrew Kalfus.

The Chair then recognized Senator Ruth Ellen Hardy, of Addison District, who delivered the report of the Joint Committee on Judicial Retention with respect to the candidacy of Superior Judge Elizabeth D. Mann.

The Chair then recognized Senator Martine Larocque Gulick, of Chittenden-Central, who delivered the report of the Joint Committee on Judicial Retention with respect to the candidacy of Superior Judge Megan J. Shafritz.

The Chair then recognized the member from Williston, Representative Angela Arsenault, who delivered the report of the Joint Committee on Judicial Retention with respect to the candidacy of Superior Judge Timothy B. Tomasi.

The Chair then recognized Senator Brian P. Collamore, of Rutland District, who delivered the report of the Joint Committee on Judicial Retention with respect to the candidacy of Superior Judge Thomas A. Zonay.

Results of Balloting

Balloting then proceeded for the office of Superior Judges, with the following results:

For Superior Judge Henry Dickson Corbett, IV

Total votes cast.....	159
Necessary for a majority.....	80
For retention.....	157
Against retention.....	2

Whereupon the Chair declared that

HENRY DICKSON CORBETT, IV of THETFORD

having received a majority of the total votes cast was duly retained in the office of Superior Judge for a term of six years, from and including the first day of April, 2025, and until his successor is elected and has qualified.

For Superior Judge Kevin William Griffin

Total votes cast..... 159
Necessary for a majority..... 80
For retention..... 159
Against retention..... 0

Whereupon the Chair declared that

KEVIN WILLIAM GRIFFIN, of NORWICH

having received a majority of the total votes cast was duly retained in the office of Superior Judge for a term of six years, from and including the first day of April, 2025, and until his successor is elected and has qualified.

For Superior Judge Howard Andrew Kalfus

Total votes cast..... 159
Necessary for a majority..... 80
For retention..... 158
Against retention..... 1

Whereupon the Chair declared that

HOWARD ANDREW KALFUS, of COLCHESTER

having received a majority of the total votes cast was duly retained in the office of Superior Judge for a term of six years, from and including the first day of April, 2025, and until his successor is elected and has qualified.

For Superior Judge Elizabeth D. Mann

Total votes cast..... 159
Necessary for a majority..... 80
For retention..... 158
Against retention..... 1

Whereupon the Chair declared that

ELIZABETH D. MANN, of NORWICH

having received a majority of the total votes cast was duly retained in the office of Superior Judge for a term of six years, from and including the first day of April, 2019, and until her successor is elected and has qualified.

For Superior Judge Megan J. Shafritz

Total votes cast..... 159
Necessary for a majority..... 80
For retention..... 159
Against retention..... 0

Whereupon the Chair declared that

MEGAN J. SHAFRITZ, of SOUTH BURLINGTON

having received a majority of the total votes cast was duly retained in the office of Superior Judge for a term of six years, from and including the first day of April, 2025, and until her successor is elected and has qualified.

Whereupon the Chair declared that

For Superior Judge Timothy B. Tomasi

Total votes cast.....	159
Necessary for a majority.....	80
For retention.....	157
Against retention.....	2

Whereupon the Chair declared that

TIMOTHY B. TOMASI, of MONTPELIER

having received a majority of the total votes cast was duly retained in the office of Superior Judge for a term of six years, from and including the first day of April, 2025, and until his successor is elected and has qualified.

For Superior Judge Thomas A. Zonay

Total votes cast.....	160
Necessary for a majority.....	81
For retention.....	159
Against retention.....	1

Whereupon the Chair declared that

THOMAS A. ZONAY, of TAFTSVILLE

having received a majority of the total votes cast was duly retained in the office of Superior Judge for a term of six years, from and including the first day of April, 2025, and until his successor is elected and has qualified.

Retention of Magistrate

Statement of Presiding Officer

We shall now proceed to the matter of retention of the incumbent Magistrate. For this position we have received a declaration of intention to seek retention to the office of Magistrate from the following:

Alicia Humbert

The name of each magistrate seeking retention is automatically voted on, and the question to be decided is:

"Shall Magistrate Alicia Humbert be retained in office?"

Yes _____ No _____.

The vote on this question shall again be by one single written ballot. The term of this Magistrate is for six years, from and including the first day of April, 2025, and until her successor is elected and qualified.

Committee Report

The Chair then recognized the member from Pittsford, Representative Alicia Malay, who delivered the report of the Joint Committee on Judicial Retention with respect to the candidacy of Magistrate Alicia Humbert.

Results of Balloting

Balloting then proceeded for the office of Magistrate, with the following results:

For Magistrate Alicia Humbert

Total votes cast.....	132
Necessary for a majority.....	67
For retention.....	132
Against retention.....	0

Whereupon the Chair declared that

ALICIA HUMBERT, of NORTHFIELD

having received a majority of the total votes cast was duly retained in the office of Magistrate for a term of six years, from and including the first day of April, 2025, and until her successor is elected and has qualified.

Dissolution

The purposes for which the Joint Assembly was convened having been accomplished, the Chair then declared the Joint Assembly dissolved.

JOHN H. BLOOMER, JR.
Secretary of the Senate
Clerk of the Joint Assembly