
INFORMATION FOR MAGISTRATE JUDGE APPLICANTS

A. LOCATION OF JUDGESHIP AND APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications for the office of United States Magistrate Judge for the District of Idaho are now being accepted. The successful applicant will maintain chambers at the United States Courthouse located at 801 E. Sherman St., Pocatello, ID 83201. Applications must be addressed to Stephen Kenyon, Clerk of Courts, U.S. Courts, 550 W. Fort Street, Suite 400, Boise, Idaho 83724, or via email at judgeapplications@id.uscourts.gov. **Applications must be received no later than 5:00 PM MDT on August 31, 2026.**

B. MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S RESPONSIBILITIES/QUALIFICATIONS

To meet the minimum qualifications for appointment, applicants must:

1. Be, and have been for at least five years, a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Territory of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the United States Virgin Islands.
2. Have been engaged in the active practice of law for a period of at least five years. We may consider as substitute experience for the active practice of law the following, or any combination thereof:
 - a. Judge of a state court of record or other state judicial officer;
 - b. United States Magistrate Judge, Bankruptcy Judge, or other federal judicial officer;
 - c. Attorney for federal or state agencies;
 - d. No more than two years as a law clerk to any judge or judicial officer or as attorney or pro se law clerk in a court; or
 - e. Other substantial legal experience, obtained after receipt of a law degree or outside the traditional practice of law, that is not described in subsections (a) through (d), but that the majority of the court determines to be a suitable substitute.
3. Be competent to perform the duties of the office, of good moral character, emotional and mature, committed to equal justice under the law, in good health, patient, courteous, capable of deliberation and decisiveness when required to act on own reason and judgement.
4. At the time of initial appointment, not be related by blood or marriage to a judge of the District Court, within the degrees specified in 28 U.S.C. § 458.
5. In the case of an initial appointment, not be 70 years of age or older. The appointment of a magistrate judge terminates when the magistrate judge reaches age 70; however, a magistrate judge 70 years of age or older to continue to serve as reappointed for sequential one-year terms upon majority vote of all active district judges.
6. Be a citizen of the United States.

C. TERM OF APPOINTMENT

The appointment is for an eight-year term. The term is expected to start April 1, 2027, or whenever the Courts receive their FY 2027 budget, whichever is later.

D. MAGISTRATE JUDGE SALARY

The current annual salary is \$229,908. Please note that relocation expenses will not be paid.

E. MAGISTRATE JUDGE JURISDICTION

The jurisdiction, powers and duties of a magistrate judge are specified in 28 U.S.C. § 636.

F. SELECTION PROCESS

The District Court uses a competitive open-selection merit process in making appointments to the office of a magistrate judge. It is a complex and time-consuming procedure.

Applicants should expect the entire process to require six to twelve months. A Merit Selection Committee composed of a chair and at least six other members evaluates all applications and interviews selected applicants and then passes along no more than five candidates the panel considers most qualified. The final selection is made by majority of the district judges of the court. In the event the judges of the District Court are unable to make a selection, the Chief Judge shall make the final determination.

Following the selection, a thorough background check is undertaken by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and a report is submitted by the Internal Revenue Service. Final appointment contingent upon satisfactory reports by these agencies.

G. SUGGESTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

1. You must follow the application format set forth in the attached form.
2. Answer all questions as thoroughly as possible. If a question or section is not applicable, please so state and, unless obvious, state why the question is inapplicable. Incomplete applications will not be processed.
3. Respond fully to each question. If there is insufficient space for response on the application itself, use a separate attachment sheet. Attachment sheets should be inserted where appropriate between application pages. Mark each appended sheet with a letter designation to the page it supplements (e.g., page 4A, 4B).
4. To be considered, the application packet must include (1) the application, (2) a bar survey waiver form, and (3) a current certificate good standing from any state bar.
5. Applicants should retain the informational pages of the application materials for their records.

H. RETURN OF APPLICATIONS

Application materials may be submitted via email to judgeapplications@id.uscourts.gov or by U.S. mail to:

Stephen Kenyon, Clerk of Courts
United States Courts, District of Idaho
550 W. Fort Street
Suite 400
Boise, Idaho 83724

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THE UNITED STATES COURTS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

If you believe that you are the recipient of discriminatory treatment, or if you have a complaint regarding any other aspect of the merit selection process, such complaint should be addressed to:

The Honorable Amanda K. Brailsford, Chief Judge
United States Courts, District of Idaho
550 W. Fort Street
Suite 400
Boise, Idaho 83724