



CITY MAGISTRATE MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION

Annual Report 2024 – 2025

March 3, 2025

In accordance with Tucson City Code Sec. 10A-139(c), please find below the Annual Report of the Tucson City Magistrate Merit Selection Commission.

1. Executive summary

Between February 2, 2024 and March 3, 2025, the Commission met two times. During that period, the Commission interviewed one sitting Tucson City Court Magistrate for reappointment. The Commission recommended against reappointment.

The Commission also has two new non-lawyer members, Jeanne M. Gacke and Heidi Steiner. Two members are nearing the end of their service on the Commission, Zaira M. Livier (March 19, 2025) and Suzette Jimenez (May 7, 2025). There is currently one vacancy on the Commission for a non-lawyer member. As Commissioners Livier and Jimenez are not eligible for reappointment, there will be two additional vacancies when their terms expire.

2. Significant actions and events

- On January 22, 2025, the Mayor and Council appointed Jeanne M. Gacke to a four-year term on the Commission.
- On February 10, 2025, City Attorney Mike Rankin retained independent counsel, Jon Paladini, to represent and advise the Commission in place of the City Attorney.

- On February 19, 2025, the Mayor and Council appointed Heidi Steiner to a four-year term on the Commission.
- On February 26, 2025, the Commission voted 5-1 to recommend against reappointing Magistrate Lisa M. Surhio to another four-year term on the City Court bench.

3. Meeting details

December 17, 2024

The Commission discussed the reappointment of Magistrate Lisa M. Surhio and set an interview date (Commissioner Ferguson absent).

February 26, 2025

The Commission interviewed Magistrate Lisa M. Surhio.

The Commission voted 5-1 (Commissioner Samet dissenting) to recommend against reappointing Magistrate Lisa M. Surhio to another four-year term on the City Court bench (Commissioners Ferguson and Jimenez absent).

For the Commission,

s/James W. Rappaport

James W. Rappaport

CHAIR

CITY MAGISTRATE MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION