



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
OFFICE OF THE  
PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Candidates for Probate Judge

**FROM:** Beverly K. Streit  
Probate Court Administrator

**RE:** November 3, 2026 Election of Judge of Probate

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As a candidate for probate judge in the upcoming Tuesday, November 3, 2026 election, this memo is to inform you of the basic requirements for this position and important rules of ethics that govern candidates for the office. In an effort to inform you of these basic requirements, we have posted the following materials on the Probate Court website, [www.ctprobate.gov](http://www.ctprobate.gov):

1. *Minimum Standards for Probate Judges* adopted by the Connecticut Probate Assembly and the Probate Court Administrator;
2. The *Code of Probate Judicial Conduct* (2022);
3. Connecticut General Statutes section 45a-18(e), which requires that a probate judge be a member of the Connecticut bar;
4. Connecticut General Statutes section 45a-27 and Probate Court Regulation 26, outlining the training program required for newly elected judges, together with the continuing education requirements for all probate judges;
5. Connecticut General Statutes sections 45a-25 and 45a-26 limiting the legal practice of probate judges, and the probate judge's partners and associates, respectively, before Probate Courts;
6. Seminar materials on campaign ethics, presented by the Connecticut Probate Assembly Ethics Committee; and
7. User Guides about various areas of Probate Court jurisdiction.

In deciding to run for probate judge, candidates must be aware of the demanding nature of the position. As identified in the *Minimum Standards for Probate Judges*, the judge needs to devote the necessary time and attention to judicial functions and court operations to ensure effective, efficient, and expeditious service. All courts are required to be open 40 hours per week. While judges are not prohibited from outside employment, candidates should plan to commit the majority of the workweek to court duties. Canon 2 of the Code of Probate Judicial Conduct obligates the judge to perform all the duties of the office in a diligent and prompt

manner. The Code further provides that a judge's judicial duties must take precedence over all other activities.

Newly elected judges are required to participate in an intensive 40-hour training program. The following training programs shall take place at this office from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.:

- Friday, November 6, 2026
- Friday, November 13, 2026
- Wednesday, November 18, 2026 (site and time to be determined)
- Friday, December 4, 2026
- Friday, December 11, 2026
- Friday, December 18, 2026
- Friday, January 8, 2027
- Friday, January 15, 2027
- Friday, January 22, 2027

Attendance at all of these programs is **mandatory for newly elected judges**.

In addition to the 40 hours of new judges' training, the continuing judicial education requirements under the statutes and Probate Court Regulation 26 mandate that the judges maintain their skills by earning 15 hours of educational credit each year. All 15 hours must be earned by the personal attendance of the judge at courses of approved continuing education instruction. Eight of these hours must be earned by attending programs sponsored by the Probate Court Administrator or the Connecticut Probate Assembly.

Lastly, candidates should pay particular attention during the election process to Canon 4 of the Code, which relates to political activities and campaign fundraising which are unique from other types of campaign fundraising efforts. The campaign ethics seminar on the website provides further guidance on these rules.

We would be pleased to answer more specific questions about the role and the responsibilities of a judge of probate. Feel free to contact me or Chief Counsel Heather L. Dostaler.