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## Survey Captures Interest, Concerns about Recruiting the Best Idaho Judges

Recruiting highly qualified judges is essential to the Idaho Supreme Court’s constitutional mission to provide timely, fair and impartial justice. However, encouraging the best and brightest to apply has become an increasing challenge — particularly for district judge vacancies, as the Court noted earlier this year.

A new report now adds to this discussion by summarizing views on judicial service and recruitment held by members of the Idaho State Bar, the group of people eligible to become judges. Released today, the report is available to read at [isc.idaho.gov](https://isc.idaho.gov).

“I’m grateful to those who provided their thoughts on this valuable topic,” said Chief Justice G. Richard Bevan, who also chairs the Idaho Judicial Council. “Idaho must maintain a robust judiciary to help our public exercise their constitutional rights. Part of that is understanding our challenges and working together to solve them.”

Idaho judges are elected officials. But [state law](#) also recognizes the need to fill vacancies outside of election years through appointments and a selection process.

Today’s report describes results of a March 2022 survey of 1,611 members of the Idaho Bar, including both attorneys and judges. Survey participants were asked what they saw as the benefits and concerns of becoming a judge. Respondents also shared whether they see bias in the selection process, and many were willing to suggest improvements to recruit capable judges.

Most who responded said they were interested in becoming a judge, but comparatively few said they had ever applied for an opening.

The report will now inform the Supreme Court’s continued efforts to enhance judicial recruitment.

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