



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 6805
November 18, 2025
Consent Agenda

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6805: Confirmation of the Municipal Court Judge Reappointment	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Adopt Resolution No. 1686 confirming the reappointment of the Mercer Island Municipal Court Judge.	

DEPARTMENT:	City Manager
STAFF:	Jessi Bon, City Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Resolution No. 1686 and Employment Agreement
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to adopt Resolution No. 1686 (Exhibit 1) confirming the reappointment of Judge Jeff Gregory to continue as the Mercer Island Municipal Court Judge for a four-year term, effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029.

BACKGROUND

On February 2, 2004, the Mercer Island City Council adopted Ordinance No. 04C-01 forming the Mercer Island Municipal Court. RCW 35.50.040 requires that all municipal court judges' terms be four years with the starting and ending date of such terms set by statute. The next statutory four-year term commences on January 1, 2026 and ends on December 31, 2029.

Pursuant to RCW 35A.13.080(2), the appointment of a municipal judge of a code city shall be made by the city manager subject to confirmation by the City Council, for a four-year term. Judge Jeff Gregory currently serves as the City of Mercer Island's Municipal Court Judge. Judge Gregory was appointed by the City Manager in 2021 to serve the current term from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2025.

In addition, the City of Mercer Island contracts with the City of Newcastle to provide Municipal Court Services. Judge Gregory currently serves as the City of Newcastle's Municipal Court Judge. The Newcastle City Council is anticipated to confirm the reappointment of Judge Gregory on December 2, 2025.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Judge Jeff Gregory has served as the City of Mercer Island's Municipal Court Judge since 2022, with his current term due to expire on December 31, 2025. Prior to his appointment as Mercer Island's Municipal Court Judge, Judge Gregory served as the Judge Pro Tem for Mercer Island and other jurisdictions for six years. Judge Gregory has been a practicing attorney for almost 24 years with a primary focus of criminal law, including experience as a prosecutor and public defender.

Pursuant to RCW 35A.13.080(2), the appointment of the municipal judge of a code city shall be made by the city manager subject to confirmation by the council, for a four-year term. The City Manager notified Judge Gregory of her intent to reappoint him to the Municipal Court Judge on November 6, 2025, pending confirmation by the City Council and execution of an employment agreement.

An employment agreement with Judge Gregory is an exhibit to Resolution No. 1686 (see Exhibit 1). The terms of the proposed employment agreement are the same as the current agreement except for salary and hours. The salary has increased to match the current District Court Judge Salary (set by the Administrative Office of the Courts) and the hours per week have increased from 20 to 24 to align with caseload and after hours work. The proposed employment agreement is within the budgeted amount for this position as approved in the 2025-2026 Biennial Budget.

The City Manager recommends that the City Council confirm the reappointment of Judge Jeff Gregory as the Mercer Island Municipal Court Judge for a four-year term, effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of Resolution No. 1686, the City Manager will execute the employment agreement with Judge Gregory.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Adopt Resolution No. 1686 confirming the reappointment of Judge Jeff Gregory to continue as the Mercer Island Municipal Court Judge for a four-year term, effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029.
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute the Municipal Court Judge Employment Agreement, substantially in the form attached as Exhibit A to Resolution No 1686, and to execute future amendments to the Agreement based on needs and changes to the Municipal Court's operations, provided that financial impacts of the amendments are within the approved budget.