



Appointment of Municipal Judge

**Proposed Council Action:
Confirm**

DEPARTMENT OF	City Clerk's Office Tisha Gieser
OTHER COUNCIL MEETINGS	n/a
COMP PLAN POLICY NOS.	n/a
OTHER POLICIES	n/a
EXHIBITS	A. Statement of Qualifications B. Oath of Office
City Attorney Review	
City Attorney Review Date:	

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Introduction

This agenda bill requests City Council confirmation of the appointment of N. Scott Stewart as Judge of the Issaquah Municipal Court.

Background

Judge N. Scott Stewart is currently the Judge of the Issaquah Municipal Court, and his term expires on Dec. 31, 2025.

Judge Stewart has served as Issaquah's Municipal Court Judge since July 2007 and has provided tremendous value to the court. He has handled thousands of proceedings, including complex motions and jury trials.

Judge Stewart has been a member of the Washington State Bar Association since 1988. He served as the Court Commissioner for the City of Tukwila from 1995 to 1998 and as a pro tem judge in the cities of Tukwila, Renton, Kirkland, Maple Valley, Des Moines and Enumclaw, as well as the King County District Court.

In 2021, Judge Stewart and the court staff started a Community Court calendar with a goal of removing the barriers that many of the persons appearing in court face in obtaining services and, ultimately, to restore them to self-sufficiency. This program has been successful in connecting participants to opportunities for education and job training, offering support for mental health and substance abuse, and helping with reducing recidivism in the community.

Judge Stewart has also taught a street law class at Issaquah High School since 2011 in his capacity as the Issaquah Municipal Court Judge. He has served as faculty at the Washington Judicial College, teaching Sentencing and Probation and as faculty for the Washington State Bar Association's Pro Tem Training, teaching Practice Bias and Procedural Fairness in 2015, 2017 and 2020, and Pro Se Litigants in 2022 and 2025.

Judge Stewart's resume is attached (Exhibit A).

Proposal

The Mayor recommends confirming N. Scott Stewart's reappointment to a four year term as Judge of the Issaquah Municipal Court, expiring Dec. 31, 2029.

RCW 3.50.055 allows for this appointment as long as the position continues as a less than full-time equivalent. In that case, an election is not required.

The judge must satisfy state law qualifications, be a citizen of the United States and be admitted to practice law in the State of Washington. The judge is not required to be a resident of Issaquah, but must reside in King County. N. Scott Stewart meets these requirements.

Next Steps

Following Council confirmation, the Mayor will conduct the oath of office with Judge Stewart prior to the year end.

Financial Information

The expenditure for this appointment, including salary and benefits, is approximately \$217,337. This amount is covered in the proposed 2026 budgeted for municipal court salaries and benefits.

Administration's Recommendation

Confirm Mayor's Appointment of Judge Stewart to serve as an Issaquah Municipal Court Judge for a four year term; appointment expiring on December 31, 2029.

Update

n/a

Alternative(s)

Choose not to reappoint Judge Stewart. (Impact: The City will need to recruit for this appointment, effective January 1, 2026.)

RECOMMENDATION

Administration / Executive Department:

MOVE TO:

Confirm Mayor's appointment of N. Scott Stewart to serve as an Issaquah Municipal Court Judge; appointment expiring December 31, 2029.

N. SCOTT STEWART
Statement of Qualifications

WORK EXPERIENCE (legal):

ISSAQUAH MUNICIPAL COURT, Issaquah, Washington

MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE, 2007 through Present

COURT COMMISSIONER, 2005 through 2007

Preside over criminal jury and bench trials, arraignments, pre-trials, motion calendars, sentencing and review hearings, mitigation and contested hearings on traffic infractions.

In response to Covid 19 pandemic established a virtual courtroom employing video conferencing streamed to YouTube; create, sign and calendar digital documents utilizing OCOURTs; manage and store all court files using SharePoint.

Associations: District and Municipal Court Judges Association

Committees: District and Municipal Court Judges Education Committee
Annual Judicial Conference Education Committee

Faculty: Washington State Judicial College - 2017, 2018, 2019
Course Taught: Sentencing and Probation

Washington State Bar Association Pro Tem Training - 2015, 2017, 2020
Course Taught: Practice Bias and Procedural Fairness

District and Municipal Court Judges Spring Program – 2019
Course Taught - Techniques to Enhance Behavior Change: A Colloquium Based Approach

District and Municipal Court Judges Spring Program – 2016
Course Taught: Ineffective Assistance of Counsel and Prosecutorial Misconduct

District and Municipal Court Judges Spring Program – 2013
Course Taught: Understanding Sovereign Citizens

Judges in the Classroom, Street Law, Issaquah High School, 2011 through Present

KING COUNTY MUNICIPAL AND DISTRICT COURTS, Numerous Locations

JUDGE PRO TEM, January 1995 through 2007

COURT COMMISSIONER, Tukwila, 1995 through 1998

King County District Courts, as well as Tukwila, Renton, Issaquah, Kirkland, Maple Valley, Des Moines, Enumclaw and Pacific Municipal Courts

Preside over criminal and civil trials, including both jury and bench trials, arraignments, pre-trials, motion calendars, sentencings and reviews, mitigation and contested hearings on traffic infractions, small claims, as well as numerous miscellaneous calendars including towing hearings, petitions for protection and anti-harassment orders, and name changes.

N. SCOTT STEWART

Statement of Qualifications, Page 2

STEWART MacNICHOLS HARMELL, INC., P.S., Kent, Washington

ATTORNEY, SENIOR PARTNER, 1995 through Present

Co-manage a law firm of twenty employees, including fifteen attorneys

CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, Des Moines, Washington

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, 2000 through 2015

Taught students in their third and fourth year of college. Classes included: Evidence and Arrest, Legal Writing, Legal Research, Introduction to Paralegal Studies, Family Law and Great American Trials.

LORING AND STEWART, Attorneys at Law, Renton, Washington

(Prev. Law Office of N. S. Stewart)

PARTNER: Conducted client interviews and evaluated claims, managed medical and other injury data, prepared demands, negotiated settlements, drafted pleadings, and performed arbitrations and trials in personal injury cases. Retained clients, reviewed police reports and investigated defenses, negotiated dispositions and conducted trials in extensive criminal misdemeanor practice, including conflict public defender cases for the cities of Renton and Tukwila.

1992 through 1994

WAITT, JOHNSON & MARTENS, Attorneys at Law, Seattle, Washington

ASSOCIATE: Conducted extensive civil litigation discovery, including preparing interrogatories and deposing claimants and witnesses. Researched and wrote arguments, drafted motions and pleadings, and presented argument in Federal and Superior Courts. Learned superior legal skills in this AV rated Seattle law firm.

1988 through 1992

MILLER & VALENTINI, P.A., Attorneys at Law, Bloomington, Minnesota

LEGAL INTERN: Interviewed clients and investigated defenses, negotiated plea bargains and conducted trials in criminal misdemeanor cases. Evaluated cases, drafted pleadings, researched memoranda, wrote motions and supporting briefs in plaintiff's personal injury practice.

1987 through 1988

HENNEPIN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, Minneapolis, Minnesota

LIMITED PRACTICE INTERN: Represented the State in all stages of misdemeanor criminal proceedings.

Prepared legal documents within Complex Crimes Section of Felony Division.

1987

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LAW SCHOOL, Minneapolis, Minnesota

RESEARCH ASSISTANT: Assisted Professor Bryden in the Constitutional Law Department with legal research in preparation for a journal article concentrating on issues of Equal Protection under the United States Constitution.

1987

N. SCOTT STEWART

Statement of Qualifications, Page 3

WORK EXPERIENCE (non-legal)

ERNST HOME CENTERS, Renton, Washington

Started in 1977 as a Boxboy and progressed to position of Head Sales Specialist when left for law school in August 1985. Learned excellent customer service skills. Employee of the Year 1984.

JUDICIAL EDUCATION

WASHINGTON STATE JUDICIAL COLLEGE, Tacoma, Washington

Certificate of Completion, January 1998

Certificate of Completion, January 2006

Completed intensive program focusing on issues of concern to district and municipal court judges and court commissioners. The program provided an opportunity for judges and commissioners to acquire knowledge and skills essential to the performance of their judicial responsibilities; to familiarize themselves with resources of particular interest to the bench; and to interact, discuss and problem solve. Admission was limited to sitting judges and court commissioners

NATIONAL JUDICIAL COLLEGE, San Diego, California

Advanced Bench Skills: Procedural Fairness

Certificate of Completion, February 2016

LAW SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LAW SCHOOL, Minneapolis, MN

Juris Doctor, *Cum Laude*, May 1988

Dean's Honor List 1986, 1987, 1988

Moot Court Teaching Director, 1987-1988

-taught legal research, writing and oral advocacy to first year law students

Finalist, Oral Advocacy Competition, 1987

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, Seattle, WA

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, June 1984

C E R T I F I C A T E

City of Issaquah

STATE OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF KING

On the 20th day of October, 2025, the Issaquah City Council
confirmed the Mayor's appointment of

Judge N. Scott Stewart

to serve as Issaquah's Municipal Court Judge;
appointment expiring the 31st day of December 2029.

*IN WITNESS THEREFORE, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal,
this _____ day of _____, 2025.*

CITY CLERK

OATH OF OFFICE

State of Washington)
) s.s.
County of King)

I, N. Scott Stewart, having been duly appointed to the position of Issaquah Municipal Court Judge, term expiring December 31, 2029, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of this office as prescribed by law and to the best of my ability, and that I will support and maintain the Constitution of the State of Washington and of the United States of America.

Dated this ____ day of _____, 2025.

MAYOR

JUDGE